MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MARCH 1983

Oil Affairs

OPEC announced a $5 cut in the price of Arabian light crude and a production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels per day, according to an OPEC communique transmitted by OPECNA. No production quota was allocated to Saudi Arabia, which will act as a "swing producer" to supply the "balancing quantities" to meet the market requirements. The communique said Iran accepted a production ceiling on its quota but "reserved its position on the decision to reduce prices." The conference reasserted its belief and confidence that OPEC remains the major force for oil market stability. Meanwhile, Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani described the OPEC agreement as "strong" and said their would be no oil price war unless "non-OPEC producers invited one," KUNA reported.

Lebanon

Washington Talks -- The United States agrees with Israel "in general" on the principle that Israeli and Lebanese forces must cooperate to maintain security in the southern Lebanon border zone, but the details on implementing this principle will be decided in the negotiations in Lebanon and Israel, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio after lengthy talks with Secretary of State George Shultz and following a meeting with President Ronald Reagan. Shamir noted that his talk with Reagan was "much more pleasant" than his previous meeting with the President over 6 months ago.

Earlier, Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim said that in his talks with Secretary of State Shultz, progress was made on "the main issue," which is connected with security arrangements and mutual relations, Beirut radio reported. However, former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam subsequently stated that no real and tangible progress has been made in the Washington talks because the Israelis have reiterated their demand for observation points on Lebanese territory and continue to reject the idea of UNIFIL and multinational force participation with the Lebanese Army in safeguarding the southern border zone, the radio noted. Lebanese officials in Washington meanwhile mounted an information "offensive" against the Israeli position and the Lebanese defense minister stated in Beirut that the Lebanese Army is prepared to deploy on all Lebanese territory and assume its full responsibility in maintaining peace and security, according to other Beirut radio reports.

Tripoli Violence -- Factional clashes resumed in the northern city of Tripoli, Beirut radio reported on 15 March. Earlier, Radio Monte Carlo said three people were killed during recent clashes in the city.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab-UK Relations -- An official Jordanian source confirmed that King Husayn will lead the seven-member Arab committee delegation to Britain on 17 March, Amman radio announced.

'Arafat activities -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Fes and will discuss the "extremely grave" incident at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem with Morocco's King Hassan II in his capacity as chairman of the Jerusaler Committee, according to Rabat radio.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi Navy scored a direct hit on an Iranian vessel attempting to tow one of the ships hit in the Khowr-e Musa region on 10 March, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio said.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET IN TUNIS 19 MARCH

LD121835 Kuwait KUNA in English 1711 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Amman, March 12 (KUNA) -- An official Palestinian source announced here Saturday that the PLO Executive Committee will meet in Tunis on March 19. The meeting will be the first of its kind following the members' reelection at the Palestine National Council's 16th session in Algiers last month.

The source told KUNA that members of the committee will start arriving at the Tunisian capital early next week. The source added that the committee will focus on means of programming the PNC recommendations into intensified political moves.

AFP: AL-WAZIR ON PRISONER EXCHANGE WITH ISRAEL

NC111726 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, March 11 (AFP) -- Khalil al-Wazir, assistant chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces (PRF), today blamed Israeli authorities for the slow progress of Palestinian-Israeli prisoner exchange negotiations. The talks are being held through the intermediaries of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, charged in a WAFA agency statement that Israeli authorities had "massacred more than 30 Palestinian militants in the Al-Ansar prison camp" in southern Lebanon. "The eight Israeli soldiers captured by the Palestinians have been treated, on the other hand, as prisoners of war," he said.

Mr al-Wazir said Israel's refusal to furnish complete lists of Palestinians and Lebanese arrested by Israeli forces in Lebanon was the "main obstacle" in the negotiations. He denied reports of direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, saying the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had "refused any contact on this subject."

He said the PRF was demanding release of all prisoners taken by the Israelis in the invasion of Lebanon, restitution of a Palestinian library and research center in Beirut, and release of some 1,000 prisoners serving long-term sentences in Israeli prisons since 1967.

'ARAFAT ON JERUSALEM, PNC RESOLUTIONS, NONALIGNED

LD141224 Kuwait KUNA in English 1015 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Doha, March 14 (KUNA) -- The PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night stopped here on his way to Morocco where he will meet with King Hassan II on the visit the Arab League seven-man committee is expected to make to London March 28.

'Arafat told the QATARI NEWS AGENCY on arrival that his meeting with King Hassan would also tackle the possibility of activating the Jerusalem Committee in the wake of the recent attacks by members of a fanatic Zionist group against Al-Aqsa Mosque.

'Arafat added that he would continue his contacts on all Palestinian and Arab levels in implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council for consolidating the Arab stand against the challenges facing the Arab nation.

As for the Nonaligned Summit Conference, held recently in New Delhi, 'Arafat referred to the committee formed by the summit under the chairmanship of Indian Premier Indira Gandhi grouping the leaders of Bangladesh, Zambia, Senegal, Cuba, Yugoslavia and Algeria who are entrusted to cooperate with the Arab League seven-man committee in extending support for the Palestinian cause and contacting international sides concerned.

He said that the New Delhi summit had clearly approved the Arab peace plan adopted by the Arab Fes summit last September.

The PLO chairman disclosed that he would launch an African tour following the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the Higher Palestinian Military Council and after his expected visits to Jordan and a number of Gulf states.

PLO, GRENADA SET RELATIONS AT EMBASSY LEVEL

LD122357 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Following Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil, Grenada has officially decided to establish diplomatic relations at embassy level with the PLO. During the signing cermony which took place on Friday at the Palaces of Conferences, Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] head of the PLO Political Department, said that Grenada and the PLO are providing a tangible example of effective solidarity among the nations which are struggling for the ideals of peace, justice, independence and dignity. Brother Abu al-Lutf added: We are engaged in a joint struggle against imperialism, colonialism, persecution and racism. He expressed the hope of establishing cooperation at all levels between the people of Palestine and Grenada.

The foreign minister of Grenada said in reply that the Palestinian people will triumph in the end, and that they can rely in their struggle against Zionism on the effective solidarity and support of the people of Grenada. He added: At a time when we are experiencing a general attack against the dictatorial regimes in Latin America, the establishment of diplomatic relations between Grenada and the PLO assumes a profound significance because it underlines the increasing support of the Latin American masses for the struggle of the Palestinian people and this is in contrast with the reputation of the Zionist administration which established relations with the fascist and unpopular regimes and joined a current which is going against the march of history. The foreign minister of Grenada continued: The PLO has been developing its relations with the nations which have regimes hostile to colonialism and imperialism. The best example of this is the international solidarity with the PLO and the support which has been stressed by most heads of delegations for the struggle of the Palestinian people for recovering their inalienable national rights.

PLO ACCUSES MOSAD OF ATTEMPT ON OFFICIAL'S LIFE

JN111727 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] The PLO has accused the Mosad and its lackeys of being responsible for the abortive assassination attempt yesterday [as heard] on the life of the PLO office director in Beirut, Tawfiq as-Safadi, when his car came under a hail of bullets as he was returning home. The official spokesman for the PLO office in Beirut has urged the Lebanese authorities to do their utmost to unveil the perpetrators and to beef up protection of the Palestinians.

PLO DENIES KHALAF MEETS ISRAELI DELEGATION

GF141920 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1845 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, 14 Mar (WAKH) -- The PLO has denied reports about an alleged meeting held in Budapest recently between Salah Khalf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, and a delegation from the Israeli Peace Now movement. In a statement carried today by WAFA, the PLO affirmed that these reports are baseless. WAFA said Abu Iyad is currently visiting Hungary to discuss joint Palestinian-Hungarian interests with its leaders.

'TEXT' OF OPEC AGREEMENT ON PRICES, PRODUCTION

LD142248 Vienna OPECNA in English 2120 GMT 14 Mar 83

["Special Transmission -- Text of OPEC Communique" -- OPECNA heading]

[Text] London, 14 Mar. 83 (OPECNA) -- Following is the text of the press release issued at the conclusion of the 67th extraordinary meeting of the OPEC conference here today:

"The 67th extraordinary meeting of the conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was held in London, United Kingdom, on 14 March 1983.

"The conference unanimously reelected as its president H.E. Yahaya Dikko, presidential adviser on petroleum and energy affairs of Nigeria and head of its delegation H.E. Gustava Gelindo Velasco, minister of natural and energy resources of Ecuador and head of its delegation, was unanimously reelected alternate president.

"For several days representatives from OPEC member countries have been engaged in consultations to agree on prices, production ceiling and quotas in order to bring stability into the market and resolved:

1) To set the official price of the marker crude Arabian light 34 API ex-Ras at-Tannura at 29 U.S. dollars per barrel,

2) To maintain the existing differentials among the various OPEC crudes at the same level as agreed upon at the 63rd extraordinary meeting of the conference held in Vienna, Austria in March 1982 with the temporary exception that the differentials for the Nigerian crudes should be one U.S. dollar over the price of the marker crude.

3) To establish a ceiling for total OPEC production of 17.5 million barrels per day within which individual member country quotas were allocated. This ceiling is to be observed as an average for the remaining part of 1983. No quota is allocated to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which will act as a swing producer to supply the balancing quantities to meet market requirements.

"That member countries shall avoid giving discounts in any form whatsoever and refrain from dumping petroleum products into the world oil market at prices which will jeopardize the crude oil pricing structure.

"The conference agreed that the recommended oil prices are floor prices and the national production quotas are ceiling figures.

"On these issues the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted the production ceiling on the national quota but reserved its position on the decision to reduce prices.

"The conference welcomed the cooperative efforts of some non-OPEC exporters in resolving the present difficulties.

"The conference reasserted its belief and confidence that OPEC remains the major force for oil market stability, beneficial to both consumers and producers.

"All ministers, therefore, pledged their efforts to sustain and strengthen OPEC thereby defending the oil market, aiding the world economy and developing their individual countries.

"Finally, the conference wishes to express its appreciation to her majesty's government for the hospitality extended to the participants of the meeting."

Yamani Remarks

LD142133 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2020 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Excerpt] No official production quota has been allocated to Saudi Arabia, which will fill the gap between market needs and the production of other OPEC states. Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said it was traditional for Saudi Arabia to take on this role. He said he felt tonight's agreement would put OPEC "in the driver's seat." But he warned that he expected some U.S. banks to face difficulties as a result. He said he hoped Britain would not start a price war. "Obviously it is in the interests of Great Britain to stabilise oil prices. This was spelt out officially by the secretary of state for energy." "I don't think Britain will start a price war. It would be against British interests and have a bad effect on the world economy." "I have a strong feeling that this will really work out," he said. "But I am not ruling out the possibility of a price war if non-OPEC producers invite it."

"I have strong hopes and there are strong indications that everybody in OPEC this time means business. It is different from any other time we have met before. OPEC is needed. You cannot leave the price of oil to fluctuate. It would definitely lead to a disaster. I think 29 dollars is very good. Anything less might be harmful."

Kuwait's oil minister, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, said he hoped for a 30-dollar price later this year, which, if achieved, might be held for two years. He, too, hoped Britain would not drop its prices further.

Production limits agreed were: Iran, 2.4 million barrels a day; Nigeria 1.3 million; Venezuela, 1.7 million; Libya, 1.1 million; Kuwait, 1.05 million, United Arab Emirates, 1.1 million; Indonesia, 1.3 million; Iraq, 1.2 million; Algeria, 0.725 million; Ecuador, 0.2 million; Gabon, 0.15 million and Qatar, 0.3 million.

The final OPEC communique said Iran had accepted its quota but had reserved its position on prices. In Paris, the Algerian news agency APS said tonight's agreement would cost the OPEC countries 18 billion pounds.

Iranian Opposition

LD141159 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Correspondent's report from London]

[Excerpt] According to informed sources, at the current OPEC meeting, despite approval to reduce the basic OPEC price from $34 to $29 by most OPEC members, Iran continues to oppose the proposal. However, Iran has succeeded in securing other OPEC members' approval for an increase in Iran's production quota from 1.2 million barrels per day set previously by the Vienna conference to 2.5 and a maximum of 2.7 million barrels per day.

KUWAIT

OFFICIALS DECRY U.S. DECISION ON MINERAL LEASES

LD121200 Kuwait KUNA in English 1004 GMT 12 Mar 83

[By Raphel Calis]

[Text] Washington, March 12 (KUNA) -- The Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States said here Friday that the U.S. Government decision not to allow Kuwait to acquire new energy and mineral leases on federal land was based on information that was incorrect and not based on facts.

The ambassador, Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir as-Sabah, was reacting to the decision announced Thursday by Interior Secretary James Watt that Kuwait cannot hold onshore oil and gas leases on federal land because it discriminated against American oil companies. The announcement was a reversal of previous decision taken last December.

In an exclusive interview with KUNA, the ambassador pointed out that the decision was announced by Watt "without prior consultations with us "and he warned that the measure "could have a negative impact on Kuwait's investments in the United States and on economic relations between the two countries."

Shaykh Sa'ud expressed his belief that "there are pressures being put on the U.S. Government from certain quarters in this country to put a limit to any economic activity by an Arab country like Kuwait in the United States."

"If Watt's decision is political, there is no justification for it. [Words indistinct] is legalistic, we are capable of rebutting it," the ambassador emphasized.

At a press conference Thursday, Watt alleged Kuwaiti investors will not be given full access to federal leases "because (?Kuwait's) customs and regulations preclude American investment in natural resources in that country."

Shaykh Sa'ud refuted such allegations. "U.S. companies had enjoyed for a very long time exploration rights in Kuwait (such as Gulf Oil Company) under conditions that had been mutually agreed upon. The leases were ended following the Kuwait Government's decision to (?nationalize) all natural resources in the country. The (?decision) was not aimed solely at Gulf Oil but affected all companies operating in Kuwait.

"The land leasing act of 1920 stipulates that all natural resources in Kuwait are the property of the government and not even the Kuwaiti citizen can exploit it."

The ambassador said that Watt's claim that non-U.S. companies are operating in Kuwait at present is not true. "Kuwait does not distinguish or discriminate against any company. Many companies had exploration rights in Kuwait but they were all ended as a result of the decision by the Kuwaiti Government to nationalize the country's natural resources," he emphasized.

The Interior Department, in its statement, claimed that Japanese-owned company continued to operate in Kuwait under its own concession. Shaykh Sa'ud refuted this saying the information was not correct.

"Let me [word indistinct] that the Japanese company (mentioned by Watt) is operating in the Continental Shelf (Al-Jurf Al-Qarri) which is divided equally between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and since it is in an [word indistinct] -shore area, it is excluded from the limitations mentioned by U.S. law (which applies only to land exploration).

"As far as the Spanish company is concerned, it had an [word indistinct] right agreement a long time ago, but the Kuwaiti Government ended this right sometime back," the ambassador explained.

The Kuwaiti ambassador, despite the latest announcement by the U.S. Government, is still optimistic that the issue is not closed and is still open to give-and-take.

"We hope that officials at the Interior Department will reconsider their decision after (?giving us) the opportunity to explain these issues involved clearly. We would like the decision to take on a sound and legalistic basis without any political and [word indistinct]."

"We are confident we are right. We are ready to provide U.S. officials with all documents which prove that what appeared in the U.S. statement has no foundation and is false." Shaykh Sa'ud has been in touch with officials at the Department's of Interior, Treasury and State in addition to members of Congress. He is expecting to have a meeting at the highest level at the Interior Department early next week to discuss the issue.

The ambassador concluded, "We look up to the U.S. Government not to submit (?to domestic) pressures in the interest of both countries. All political issues should be cast aside in questions like these, since our bilateral relations with the U.S. are good and should be exploited to the maximum in the interest of the two sides.

In Kuwait, the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and acting Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn was quoted today as saying that Kuwait was not officially informed of the United States decision banning it from oil and natural gas exploration on American federal lands.

He told AL-ANBA' newspaper that the lease of the Santa Fe Company for oil exploration, through which Kuwait conducts its investment operations in the U.S., was legal. "Its leases signed through lawyers were in agreement with all parties involved, including the official American side."

Husayn added, "We are informed that some American parties are discussing the possibility of reviewing the issue, but we have not been officially notified of this."

"Kuwait will insist on implementing the agreement which was legally reached, while (?we) implement the rules governing all oil operations on our lands," he said.

The Kuwaiti minister said "When Kuwait nationalized its oil operations, it did it through legal means and paid commission to the affected companies."

Kuwait (?purchased) Santa Fe International, which is located in California, at a cost of 2.5 billion dollars last year.

Following the American decision the Santa Fe Corporation announced that this decision will make it lose a 50 million dollar investment in new emergency projects in the U.S. during this year.

SAUDI ARABIA

'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN SAUDI ARABIA 12 MAR

LD122032 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived at 2100 today in Riyadh on a visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed by Prince Sattam ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, governor of Riyadh region; Rafiq an-Natshah, Fatah movement representative in the Kingdom, and a number of high-ranking officials.

King Fahd Receives 'Arafat

LD132125 Riyadh SPA in English 1934 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, March 13, SPA -- Visiting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today called on King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, here today.

Later, the Saudi monarch gave a dinner party in honour of Mr 'Arafat.

'Arafat on New Delhi Summit

PM142119 London ASH-SHARQ AL-ASWAT in Arabic 14 Mar 83 pp 1, 5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Mahir 'Abbas "during recent stop in Riyadh en route from New Delhi to Tunis"]

[Excerpts] [Question] Before you left for New Delhi a week ago Saturday at the end of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit, you stopped in Riyadh twice within 8 days. How do you evaluate Palestinian-Saudi relations?

[Answer] Relations between us and the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's people, government, and king are strategic, strong, and solid. King 'Abd al-'Aziz always strengthens these relations with his statements in which he confirms Saudi Arabia's commitment to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people and their national and inalienable rights.

This fact is evident in all the Kingdom's actions in all Arab and international forums as well as in the contacts Saudi Arabia carries out in this regard.

[Question] What is your impression of the results of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit with regard to the situation in the area?

[Answer] I regard the New Delhi Summit as a new launching point for the nonaligned countries whose number now totals 101 which, with the observer countries, reached 116. The Arab and Palestinian presence was eminent when all the issues of liberation were discussed at the conference, in that all these issues were discussed at the highest levels and with resolve to find solutions for them.

One of the first issues was what is known as the Gulf war or the Iraq-Iran war. At the beginning of the conference, a number of the brothers dealt with this problem and they almost reached a solution for it, but I found that in the last 2 days what we had agreed upon or what we had been told was agreed upon was rejected by the Iraqi and Iranian sides. At this point, Chairman Mrs Indira Gandhi and the head of the Yugoslav delegation asked the Palestinian delegation to intervene in the matter.

At the beginning we did not deal with this issue because there were some other brothers who were doing this and we were busy with other issues. But thank God we have been able, through intensive contacts with all the parties concerned and with the Iraqi and Iranian delegations, who were in constant contact with Baghdad and Tehran regarding the proposals submitted by the Palestinian delegation, to reach a formula acceptable to both sides.

At 0230 on Saturday New Delhi time, the Palestinian delegation was able to reach the formula which Chairman Indira Gandhi announced first at the heads of state meeting and later at the general meeting. We reached this solution after great effort and after intensive contacts with all the parties. The solution was the appeal which Mrs Gandhi addressed on behalf of the conference for an immediate halt to the war and a rapid cease-fire. She said that she will hold contacts with the parties concerned in order to take immediate steps in this matter.

[Question] What are these steps and have they been defined?

[Answer] It was agreed that these steps should not be announced before the prior approval of both sides is obtained so this will not fail as previous initiatives have failed.

[Question] Did the Iranian side show any good intentions?

[Answer] There is no doubt. I must say that the proposal we put to the conference to address a salutation to Iraq was within this context. On the other hand, all the parties, including the Iranian delegation, approved the details of Indira Gandhi's appeal to both sides during the general meeting. Every word and every letter of the proposal was approved by both sides.

When the Iranian delegation announced at the heads of state meeting that "we approve brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] initiative," the Iraq delegation responded "we too approve this subject and Brother Abu 'Ammar's initiative in this regard."

[Question] During your activities in New Delhi, you met with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. Did the meeting produce any results?

[Answer] I met with President al-Jumayyil after intensive meetings of the joint Lebanese-Palestinian committee. A number of joint decisions regarding bilateral Palestinian-Lebanese issues were reached.

[Question] What about the Palestinians living in Lebanon?

[Answer] We discussed all the issues?

[Question] In New Delhi you embraced President Hafiz al-Asad after he delivered his speech to the conference -- an embrace interpreted by news agencies as the removal of barriers and the thawing of ice.

[Answer] There are no barriers or strain between me and President Hafiz al-Asad. On every occasion I have had the opportunity to meet with President al-Asad there has always been this clear and continuing relationship between us.

[Question] What is your comment on former U.S. President Carter's tour of the area?

[Answer] I hope that former President Carter will stick to his words in the past about the Palestinian people's rights and to continue defending these rights in which he has said he believes.

[Question] Do you believe that the time has come for King Husayn to enter into peace negotiations with the U.S. Administration?

[Answer] Ask King Husayn. It is unbecoming to speak on King Husayn's behalf.

CARTER ARRIVES IN SAUDI ARABIA 14 MARCH

GF150548 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Mar (WAKH) -- Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived in Riyadh last night on a visit to Saudi Arabia in the course of his current tour of the Middle East region. He was received by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faysal.

SPA REPORTS 14 MARCH MEETING OF CABINET

LD142052 Riyadh SPA in English 1935 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Mar (SPA) -- The Cabinet, at a weekly meeting chaired by Crown Prince 'Abdallah today, was briefed in detail on the outcome of the non-aligned summit held in New Delhi earlier this month, it was officially announced.

Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, reporting on the deliberations, said the Cabinet expressed satisfaction with the results of the summit especially as regards supporting the Arabs' just causes notably the Palestine cause, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

He quoted Crown Prince 'Abdallah as saying that the movement had actually proved its success at the New Delhi gathering and its ability to overcome past negative factors and positively (?move) ahead in backing one of the most important liberation causes -- the Palestine cause.

The crown prince expressed great satisfaction with the two resolutions adopted by the New Delhi summit endorsing the pan-Arab peace plan as a basis for any just settlement for the Palestine problem and forming a special committee to follow up backing the cause on the international level.

He also expressed confidence that the Non-Aligned Movement's action to put an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war demonstrated the sense of responsibility felt by the Third World towards the intricate problem.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of meetings held by King Fahd with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who acquainted the monarch with the summit resolutions and exchanged views on current questions, including Arab moves to implement resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) at its recent meeting in Algiers.

Dr Yamani said the Cabinet also discussed a cultural and educational cooperation agreement with Qatar and approved it. It underlined the importance of cooperation with Qatar and other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the various domains.

The Cabinet also reviewed a full report on the oil consultations that have been going on for two weeks in London within the framework of OPEC and non-OPEC members with the aim of reaching agreement on production ceiling and output quotas as well as oil prices.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah expressed confidence that OPEC would be able to overcome the current crisis created by certain individual practices and said the Kingdom fully supported the interests of OPEC, consuming countries and the international community as a whole.

He also affirmed that the Kingdom could not abandon its policy on energy because it took into consideration the interests of all sides.

CROWN PRINCE ON GULF TENSIONS, ARMED FORCES

LD132252 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Mar (SPA) -- His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, has affirmed the need to keep the Gulf area free of tension. High highness said that continuing explosive conditions tend to provide a ground for foreign intervention in the area at any moment.

About the possibilities of realizing peace in the Middle East, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that there are encouraging signs which the United States and the rest of the great powers can bolster by recognizing the full legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In a statement to the newspaper 'UKAZ to be published tomorrow, his royal highness warned against the attempts of the Israeli enemy to continue to undermine the efforts for ending the Zionist occupation of Lebanon. He said that the continuation of an Israeli military presence in Lebanon would mean destroying any opportunity for peace today.

About the role of the armed forces and the National Guard, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that these growing forces perpetuate the concepts of security, stability, and tranquility and they safeguard not only the great gains of the Saudi people, but also the Arab and Islamic nations at the same time. His royal highness affirmed that his majesty's care for the National Guard springs from his majesty's conviction that the strength of this country is great protection for the homeland and the nation. His royal highness said that the development of all sections of the armed forces helps to realize the welfare, peace, and stability in the area. He added that the kingdom believes that strengthening the military force helps to create better circumstances for realizing peace and stability in the area. His royal highness explained that efforts are now being concentrated on diversifying the defensive base of the Kingdom and on developing it in a manner that makes it a deterrent and a shield to protect our land and gains, and a support and a shield that protects the natural rights of the Arab and Islamic nations.

At the end of his statement, his royal highness said: We are in a country that has commitments and Arab, Islamic, and international ethics. Therefore, we respect our borders and our commitments. We call on others to hold this level of commitment so security and stability can prevail and a chance of peace may become available in the area.

MUBARAK ON NONALIGNED CONFERENCE, ARAB AFFAIRS

PM141631 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Mar 83 pp 1, 3

[Ibrahim Nafi' report on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak remarks "On his way back to Cairo" from New Delhi after a stopover in Oman, presumably on 9 March]

[Text] On his way back to Cairo after a 2-hour meeting with Sultan Qabus in Salalah, Oman, President Husni Mubarak talked about the results of his participation in the Nonaligned Conference sessions and his extensive meetings with a large number of Arab, African, and Latin American kings and heads of state in the past 48 hours.

The president said: There was a major change in the general atmosphere at the conference in relation to Egypt. It is now clear that Egypt has regained its place and weight in the Nonaligned Movement.

He added that Egypt's participation in the conference was preceded by intensive political moves at the level of the nonaligned states, culminating in his visits to India and Yugoslavia. With these moves, he said, Egypt regained an extremely important political place in the international community.

President Mubarak also said: This Egyptian approach confirms:

1. Egypt's faith in the Nonaligned Movement's historic and vital role in defense of the interests and rights of the small states and other newly independent states and in settling disputes and differences among those states.

Egypt refuses to join pacts and refuses to allow military bases on its territory. It is within this context that Egypt clings to the movement and to its role in it and insists on the need to defend its principles against all attempts made by some to interfere with and control the movement and its states.

President Mubarak added: The best example of the vital importance of Egypt's role in the movement is the rejection of Libya's calls for the termination or suspension of Egypt's membership. There was a unanimous Arab and international rejection of these calls. The speech I made at the conference in Egypt's name, nonetheless, rose above such trivialities. The personalities with whom I met were clearly appreciative of that speech. Most of them advised us not to stoop to the level of answering such vituperation.

2. On the Palestinian question, President Mubarak said: Egypt still adheres to its principled position that the Palestinian question concerns the Palestinians, that the matter is in their own hands and they should take the decisions that will lead to self-determination for them, for the Palestinian people who have endured homelessness and occupation. Egypt has done and is doing everything in its power to support the Palestinian people.

President Mubarak added: In three meetings with King Husayn lasting well over 3 hours, I discussed the present situation in the light of the PLO's acceptance or nonacceptance of a confederation with Jordan, to enable the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to speed up participation in negotiations that would lead to peace and to the guaranteeing of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

President Mubarak further said: We still believe that failure to expedite participation in the negotiations would be a big loss to the Palestinian cause as a whole. I almost venture to add that postponing the decision to participate in the negotiations until the second half of this year would entail a major loss, because we all know that the U.S. election will begin next year so that the issue, or the Middle East question, will not be among the U.S. Administration's top priorities.

There is another very important factor, namely what is now taking place in the West Bank and Gaza. I am referring here to the stepped-up construction of settlements and the topographical alterations there. I believe that, if these activities continued with the same intensity until the end of the U.S. election and the beginning of the new president's term of office, it would be difficult to negotiate dismantling them or changing much, faced with a fait accompli.

President Mubarak pointed out that the criticism we made of the PLO regarding Egypt has been made by many others. He added: I repeat, in the light of my refusal to meet with any of them [Palestinian leaders] in New Delhi, that the Egyptian people have their dignity and Egypt has its dignity, and that I will not allow anyone to insult Egypt and its people or undermine their dignity. Egypt's position is clear. The attempt to divide its people or classify them as patriotic and progressive forces and unpatriotic and nonprogressive forces is unacceptable in Egypt.

I also say that this is not the way to deal with states. I have already said that those who went to Algeria are Egyptian patriots and constitute a part of the nationalist Egyptian people. However, it is quite a different matter when one or more individuals work against their country.

He added: It would be foolish, illogical, and unrealistic to contemplate abrogation of the Camp David agreements. An abrogation of the Camp David agreements would be very detrimental to the Arab world and the Palestinian cause. The Camp David agreements are the only documents to which Israel is committed. These agreements gave us our territory back. Under the remaining framework relating to the Palestinian question, we have not forfeited any of their rights, and we are trying to persuade them to go to the negotiating table, which is the natural way to end any war or conflict. This is the way to regain their rights and end the fait accompli, which is adversely affecting their negotiating position every day and which, with the passage of months and years, will be such that even the Reagan initiative will be of no use.

The president also said: We are committed to peace, the peace agreements and all agreements stemming from them. This emanates from the fact that Egypt, the biggest Arab state, honors its commitments. It has chosen peace as a matter of principle, and it has been supported in this by all the peace-loving states which helped us economically and military throughout the past years when no aid was coming from the Arab states.

He added: The important thing is that, if Egypt were to abrogate the Camp David agreements, which is completely out of the question, some Palestinian leaders and some Arabs would still blame Egypt and claim that it was liquidating the cause. I finally say that an abrogation of the Camp David agreements would be a loss to the entire Arab world and would mean a loss of the Arab nation's prestige in the world.

3. In its contacts regarding the draft resolutions, Egypt put emphasis on economic matters of interest of the Third World states because these are the matters which really preoccupy the peoples of these states -- the hope of a better future, of economic and social development, and for higher living standards and progress.

Egypt has urged resumption of the dialogue between North and South, that is between the rich and the poor, and among the poor themselves. The developing countries face the same kind of problems. There economies are similar and they complement one another, which helps increase trade among them.

Technological expertise could be exchanged within the nonaligned states the majority of which are developing states. These ideas were developed and implemented during the meeting held between President Mubarak and Mrs Indira Gandhi, who welcomed stronger cooperation between Egypt and India in all fields and greater economic cooperation among the nonaligned states.

4. President Mubarak commented on the actions of Libyan Chairman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, especially the motion in New Delhi to terminate or suspend Egypt's membership in the Nonaligned Movement. As we have said, that motion was unanimously rejected by the Arab states. The Indian foreign minister said of it: "This is out of the question, and the grounds submitted have completely changed over the past year." He also said: "We really do not know what Libya wants."

President Mubarak told, for the first time, the story of the special envoy sent to him last Thursday by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to ask for an improvement in relations and reopening of the borders between the two countries.

President Mubarak told the envoy: How can you seek better relations with Egypt today when only yesterday you attacked Egypt over Tripoli radio? How can you seek better relations after calling for the termination or suspension of Egypt's membership during the nonaligned states' ministerial conference? I have in front of me a cable from the Egyptian delegation in New Delhi informing me of this.

The special envoy then told President Mubarak that Col al-Qadhdhafi had instructed the Libyan delegation in India to withdraw that request. However, when I [Mubarak presumably speaking] went to New Delhi on Sunday I was surprised to see the Libyan request renewed. In fact, Libyan chief delegate 'Abd as-Salam Jallud insisted on it in a speech in which, regrettably, he insulted Egypt and its people.

5. President Mubarak also said that the meetings held between him and some of the brother Arab leaders were a step toward putting some warmth back into Egyptian-Arab relations. He added: "I still maintain that Egypt's gates and heart are open to the Arab nation. Egypt was not the one which severed its relations with anyone."

Further to what President Husni Mubarak said, AL-AHRAM can not publish the details of the contacts which Al-Qadhdhafi tried to make while hatching his plot against Egypt and Sudan. One day after these contacts revealed by President Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi insulted Egypt and its people.

The story of these contacts began before President Mubarak's trip to the United States and Canada a month ago. One of Col al-Qadhdhafi's aides contacted him and asked to meet the president, saying it was important. The president agreed and received him twice. Al-Qadhdhafi's envoy spoke about relations between the two countries and their improvement.

The president wondered: How could the Libyan envoy ask such a thing when Tripoli radio never stops attacking Egypt and its people? Still, the president said, Egypt is above all that and has left such methods behind.

The envoy spoke about reopening the borders between the two countries and allowing vehicles to cross the borders in both directions.

President Mubarak's reply was that it was a matter of time, that he did not make his decisions in isolation from everyone else, and that such decisions were usually discussed with the president's political advisers in a democratic way.

What was even more strange was that Col al-Qadhdhafi's envoy asked President Mubarak to mediate between Libya and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri with a view to improving relations between the two countries.

President Mubarak told him that he would discuss this matter with President Numayri after his return from his scheduled U.S. visit. When the president returned to Egypt from that visit he learned the details of Libya's plot against Sudan. The details, now common knowledge, showed the following:

A. Libya and a group in Sudan hatched a plot against Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. What neither Col al-Qadhdhafi nor this group knew was that all their moves were being monitored.

B. The plan was to bomb Wadi Madani and Khartoum airports to create an atmosphere that would contribute to the success of the plot and prevent any countermove.

C. During his meeting with President Ja'far Numayri in Aswan, President Husni Mubarak learned from the Sudanese president that Libya had sent in an Ethiopian ship carrying $11 millions' worth of arms from Al-Qadhdhafi. The arms were placed in the bottom of the ship and covered by peanuts. They were seized by the Sudanese Government.

The Sudanese president also told President Mubarak that the group which hatched the plot had a telex machine on which it received orders from Libya. A surprise occurred when the group received a cable while Presidents Mubarak and Numayri were meeting in Aswan.

Before the operation was due to be carried out an AWACS plane arrived with the information that Libya had mobilized MIG-21 and MIG-23 aircraft at Al-Kufrah airport. The aircraft entered Egyptian airspace and were intercepted by Egyptian Phantoms. They returned to Libya without a clash taking place.

Egypt then contacted Libya saying that the Libyan military violation of Egyptian airspace must not be repeated because Egyptian aircraft had orders to open fire on any military aircraft which violated Egyptian airspace.

A cable was then sent to the Sudanese group which was supposed to implement the plot requesting postponement for 1 or 2 months in view of the discovery of the dimensions of the plot.

D. The biggest surprise after that was that Cairo received a cable in which Al-Qadhdhafi enquired about Egypt's efforts related to the question of mediation between Libya and Sudan to improve relations between the two countries, as if the colonel were not plotting against Sudan.

E. Last Thursday a relative of Col al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Cairo and requested a meeting with President Mubarak. The president agreed on the basis of the principle of not rejecting contact with anyone as long as it is in Egypt's interest and as long as no personal interests are involved.

During that meeting President Mubarak told the colonel's envoy that Libya should keep out of Sudan, that Egypt would not keep silent about any strike against Sudan, and that the method of plots was not the democratic method about which Col al-Qadhdhafi spoke in his Green Book. Let that, he said, be the beginning of improved relations and good-neighborliness.

Col al-Qadhdhafi's envoy repeated his request for a reopening of the borders. The president told him that Egypt had no objection to a revival of the Libyan civil aviation route between Libya and Egypt to pave the way for the restoration of relations.

Chairman al-Qadhdhafi's next step was to send his envoy to New Delhi to request suspension of Egypt's membership of the Nonaligned Movement.

PAPER REPORTS AL-JUMAYYIL-MUBARAK CONVERSATION

NC130656 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA) -- AL-AHRAM reports today that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil yesterday held a telephone conversation with President Husni Mubarak and thanked him for Egypt's clear stand toward Lebanon. This stand was manifested in the speech which Mubarak delivered before the Nonaligned Summit Conference to stress the need for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon and for Lebanon's restoration of full sovereignty over its territory.

The newspaper says former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam also held a telephone conversation with President Mubarak. Salam will leave for Washington today to deliver a message from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil to U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTS ON RECENT PNC STATEMENT

NC130635 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA) -- AL-AHRAM affirms that a commendable trend is evident in the Nonaligned Movement even among the Arab group, and that the trend is devoid of foolishness.

In its commentary to be published tomorrow, AL-AHRAM says this trend became obvious when the Libyan attempt to suspend Egypt's membership in the movement ended in clear disappointment.

AL-AHRAM notes that an attempt had been made earlier in the Palestine National Council [PNC] statement in Algiers to induce Egypt to suspend the Camp David accords.

AL-AHRAM describes the explanations made concerning the statement as absurd and says that what is even more absurd is the statement that the PNC did not mean to call for the abandonment of the Camp David accords but for the suspension of the implementation of the parts relating to Palestine and autonomy. The paper wonders whether the PNC was incapable of making this simple distinction and whether it was incapable of directing its objections only to the second framework of Camp David.

AL-AHRAM says: What excuse has the PNC to be specific in all its resolutions except that relating to Egypt? For instance, it addresses Syria as Syria and not as the Syrian regime and refers to it even in the explanations as a confrontation state, without any suspicion surrounding its confrontation with the Palestinians and the Israelis in Lebanon.

Concluding its commentary, the paper expresses surprise at this behavior and asks who alleged that Egypt has deprived the Palestinian leadership of the right to object to everything affecting the Palestinians, whether from near or from far away. It was Egypt who frankly called for this right in facing Israel and the United States.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Colombo Arrives, Makes Statement

NC121908 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo arrived in Cairo this evening on a 1-day visit. President Husni Mubarak will receive the Italian foreign minister tomorrow.

In a statement after his arrival, the Italian foreign minister expressed pleasure at being given the opportunity to meet with President Husni Mubarak. The Italian minister will hold talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali on peace in the Middle East, development problems, and bilateral relations. His excellency commended the role Egypt played under President Mubarak's leadership at the Nonaligned Summit Conference. He said that Italy appreciates Egypt's role not only regarding the Middle East area but also regarding the nonaligned states and the entire world. The Italian foreign minister said that Italy has contributed toward the achievement of peace in the Middle East and that this is indicated in its participation in the multinational force in Sinai and the multinational force in Lebanon.

Talks Begin in Cairo

NC122128 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA) -- A session of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry tonight between the Egyptian delegation led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and the Italian delegation led by Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo.

At the outset of the meeting Dr Ghali dealt with Egyptian-Italian relations in the political, economic, and cultural fields. He praised the Italian role in the Middle East question represented by Italy's participation in the Sinai multinational force and also in the force that was set up following the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and on the Palestinian people.

Ghali then dealt with Italy's actions within the framework of the European role in maintaining the momentum in the Middle East peace process, backing the U.S. initiative, supporting the Nonaligned Movement and backing the integration between Egypt and Sudan.

In reply, the Italian foreign minister said that the role which his country is carrying out in solving the Middle East question stems from its interest in establishing peace in the area and from the nature of the existing bonds between Italy and the states in the area.

He also praised the good effect of President Husni Mubarak's attendance at the Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi and expressed his gratitude over what he heard from the Egyptian minister about his appraisal of the work of the New Delhi conference and the spirit of detente that prevailed there after the Nonaligned Movement was subjected in recent years to extremist trends and confrontation within its ranks.

The talks between the two sides dealt with various international questions, the foremost of which are the African questions and the crisis which the OAU is presently subjected to and the need for safeguarding the cohesion and unity of the organization.

President Mubarak will receive the Italian foreign minister tomorrow, Sunday. Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din will also meet with him.

Mubarak Receives Colombo

NC130826 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at the Al-Qubbah Palace this morning Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo, who is currently visiting Egypt. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affars Dr Butrus Ghali and Italian Ambassador in Cairo Elio Giuffrida.

Following the meeting, Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo told journalists that his talks with the president were important, useful, and constructive and that they dealt with bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East.

Asked whether Italy has new ideas or efforts to exert to establish peace in the Middle East, Colombo said: We have always contributed within our resources. We are committed to this. We will also offer assistance and efforts whenever we can in order to reach a peaceful settlement in the area. Our participation in the multinational force in Sinai and Beirut proves this. We have also interceded with the parties concerned to accelerate the peace process. Colombo said that his country supports all current initiatives and the vistas provided by the Reagan plan. It also appreciates all the positive elements of the Fes plan. It also hopes that the road will be open for a constructive dialogue. He said: We regret that his dialogue has not yet begun but we hope that it will start with the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Colombo said that he expressed to President Mubarak appreciation for the efforts he made at the Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi. Colombo described economic relations between Egypt and Italy as good.

Colombo, Ghali Remarks

NC131528 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo held a press conference this afternoon on the conclusion of his visit to Cairo in which he said that the talks he had with President Mubarak and Egyptian officials focused on three subjects: The situation in the Middle East, the solution of the Lebanese crisis, and the Nonaligned Conference in light of the Egyptian role during the recent Nonaligned Summit Conference. The Italian foreign minister praised the role Egypt is playing to push the peace efforts forward and achieve a comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has emphasized that the Egyptian-Italian talks were very positive and dealt with Italy's and the European community's role in the establishment of peace in the Middle East. He said that the Italian minister affirmed his government's support for the Egyptian efforts and the initiatives made to achieve a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis. The Italian minister also expressed Italy's readiness to play a role in giving momentum to these efforts. He said that the Egyptian and Italian sides have agreed to strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Colombo Departs 13 Mar

NC131546 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA) -- Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo left Cairo for Rome this afternoon following a 1-day visit to Egypt. He was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING IN 'ISMAT AS-SADAT CASE

NC142020 Paris AFP in English 1917 GMT 14 Mar 83

[By Hassan Zenati]

[Text] Cairo, Mar 14 (AFP) -- Egyptian Prosecutor-General 'Atif Zaki today announced the creation of a special committee of magistrates to decide what further legal action to take after the recent trial on corruption charges of the late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's brother 'Ismat.

Following the conviction of Mrs as-Sadat and three of his sons, President Husni Mubarak yesterday sacked two of three Cabinet members accused by the Ethics Court of abusing their "political and executive responsibility" in according privileges to 'Ismat as-Sadat.

The court also implicated four former ministers and five ex-directors of state enterprises in the corruption trial.

Political observers here saw Mr Mubarak's move as proof of his determination to combat corruption in this country.

Although he has so far abstained from directly accusing his predecessor, a recent statement vowing that "Egypt will be no one's private domain" was interpreted here as an implicit reference to President as-Sadat.

The trial, observers said, also gave Mr Mubarak the opportunity to reaffirm his domestic policy of bringing back to Egypt "the moral values of rural communities."

This had led an editorial in the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR to say that President Mubarak would "make integrity the base of his legitimate popularity."

The magazine noted that late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's popularity stemmed from 1952 abolition of the monarchy, and Anwar as-Sadat's from the 1973 Yom Kippur war against Israel.

Observers here believed Mr Mubarak aimed to thus eliminate eventual rivals while rehabilitating the judiciary corps which, according to the testimony of former judges, has suffered from interventions from the executive in the past 30 years.

They thought the president's next target would be the "infitahi," businessmen who amassed fortunes under President as-Sadat's economic liberalism.

Mr Mubarak will probably not attack the principle of the policy, but ask that the activities of the "infitahi" -- whose flamboyant lifestyles contrast with those of the shantytown poor -- be more productive than speculative.

Shady dealings stemming from such speculation are often denounced in the opposition press, and the current mood of morality in this country, along with an upsurg of Islamic fundamentalism, will make things easier for Mr Mubarak, observers said.

TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH DPRK IN CAIRO

NC111117 Cairo, March 11 (MENA) -- Egypt and North Korea signed today a protocol for trade exchange that aims at increasing the volume of their trade to 64 million sterlings. Under the protocol, Egypt exports to Korea cotton, textiles, metallurgical products, chemicals, medicines, and cosmetics, and imports from Korea cement, cast iron, and other raw materials. The visiting Korean first deputy minister of foreign trade signed for Korea, while Economy Undersecretary Husayn Ahmad Husayn signed for the other side.

OIL MINISTER ON OPEC PRICES, PRODUCTION AGREEMENT

INI41132 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] London, 14 Mar (INA) -- Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi today said that the OPEC oil ministers have at least finalized a formula fixing their countries quotas.

In a statement to INA here today, Taqi expected an emergency OPEC meeting here later today to adopt official decisions aimed at fixing the crude oil prices and defining the production quotas and the new production ceiling.

He stressed that the new price of crude oil has become $29 -- it was $34 per barrel. He added that the Nigerian oil price has been fixed at $29.50 per barrel and the Algerian oil at $30 per barrel. Agreement has been reached, he said, on fixing the new production ceiling at 17.5 million barrels a day. All OPEC states have reached a relatively acceptable formula on fixing the production quotas, he concluded.

IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES REPORTED 11-14 MAR

Communique No 1,025

JNI11707 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes today attacked Iranian positions and troops concentrations in the central operational sector, inflicting losses in life and equipment, before returning safely to base. Communique No 1,025 issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command noted that the Iraqi forces killed five Iranians; destroyed three positions; one hardware stockpile, and one observation post and found one 60-mm mortar, light-caliber weapons, and a quantity of hardware. The communique said that the Iranian regime shelled Mandali and Zurbatiyah with artillery, damaging civilian installations. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,025 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The brave Iraqi soldiers continued their daring operations against the Iranian regime, which is excelling in evil deeds, expansion, and aggression. The following are the results for yesterday and today:

1. Formations of our brave air force today carried out effective raids on the enemy positions and troops concentrations in the area opposite our positions in the central sector, inflicting losses in life and equipment. All of our planes returned safely to base.

2. Two were killed and three positions destroyed in the area east of Basra.

3. Two were killed; one hardward stockpile destroyed, and one 60-mm mortar was found in the central sector.

4. One was killed, one observation post was destroyed, and a number of light-caliber weapons and a quantity of hardware were found in the Maysan operational sector.

5. Using artillery, the Khomeyniite clique today shelled Mandali and Zurbatiyah, causing damage to a number of civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 March 1983

Communique No 1,026

JN121729 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,026 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high spirits derived from unique valor, high combat capability, heroic steadfastness, and confidence in victory over greedy, suspect enemies, our armed forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units ambushed a group of enemy troops opposite our positions in the Maysan operational sector and managed to kill two of them and capture one, who was evacuated to the rear with his weapon. The enemy also sustained three killed and one vehicle destroyed opposite the positions of our other units in the same sector. During their activities opposite our units' positions in the same sector, our combat patrols discovered a number of serviceable medium and light weapons and various military equipment abandoned by the enemy in the recent immortal Ash-Shib battles.

2. Today our bold fighter planes attacked enemy positions and concentrations opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits. All our planes returned safely to base.

3. Five were killed and two observation posts destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

4. One weapons emplacement and one hardware stockpile were destroyed east of Basra.

5. Today the vile enemy shelled Basra and Mandali and their outskirts. The enemy's savage shelling wounded one civilian in Basra and caused damage to some civilian establishments in the two cities.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 March 1983

Communique No 1,027

JN131705 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes today raided enemy positions and troop and vehicular concentrations in the Maysan and central operational sectors, as well as military targets deep inside Iranian territory in the southern sector, scoring direct and effective hits. This came in Iraqi Military Communique No 1,027 tonight, which also notes that Iranian artillery today shelled Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, and Zurbatiyah, wounding one civilian. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,027 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The brave sons of our armed forces continued their bold operations in the operational sectors against the Iranian regime, which is wallowing in the quagmire of aggression and bestiality.

The following are the results for last night and today:

1. The daring fighter planes of the Iraqi Air Force today carried out strikes against enemy positions and troop and vehicular concentrations in the areas opposite our positions in the Maysan and central operational sectors, as well as against military targets deep inside Iran in the southern sector, scoring direct and effective hits. All of our fighter planes, except for one which went down in enemy territory, returned safely to base. Air 1st Lieutenant Fadil Amin Janah was seen bailing out safely. We, on our part, hold the Iranian side responsible for his safety.

2. One was killed and two vehicles destroyed in the Maysan operational sector. Our combat patrols in the same sector found a number of light-caliber weapons and a quantity of military hardware that were left behind by the enemy during the recent Ash-Shib battles.

3. Two were killed in the central operational sector.

4. One was killed and one infantry position destroyed in the area east of Basra. All personnel manning the position were killed.

5. The artillery of the vile Khomeyniite clique today shelled Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, and Zurbatiyah, wounding a civilian in Mandali.

[signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 March 1983

Communique No 1,028

JN141706 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) -- Iraqi naval units today scored a direct and effective hit on an Iranian naval target as it was trying to tow one of the targets which was hit in the Khowr-e Musa area last Thursday. The Iraqi military communique this evening said that the Iranian artillery today shelled Mandali and Khurmal, killing two women, wounding four others, as well as two children, and demolishing a number of residences. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,028 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The heroic Iraqi people and their able army confirm their legitimate defense of their homeland through their daring operations against the grudge-bearing, racist Iranian enemy. The following are the results for yesterday and today:

1. An enemy attempting to tow one of the naval targets which was hit by our brave naval forces on 10 March in the Khowr-e Musa area northeast of the Arab Gulf was discovered this morning. At 1000 today, one of our heroic naval units dealt a direct blow to the enemy's desperate attempt, scoring a direct and effective hit on one of the enemy targets. It was observed that the enemy was gripped with panic as a result of the operation.

2. Using various types of weapons, one of our forward units founded enemy personnel in the Maysan operational sector, killing two and forcing the rest to flee. One of our combat patrols in the same sector found a quantity of serviceable weapons and hardware that were left by the enemy during the Ash-Shib epics.

3. Four were killed east of Basra.

4. One was killed and an infantry position was destroyed in the central operational sector.

5. One was killed in the northern operation sector.

6. Using artillery, the criminal Iranian regime today shelled with bestiality and barbarity Mandali and Khurmal in the Halabjah district. The bestial shelling left two women dead, four others and two children wounded, and a number of residences demolished.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 March 1983

MA'RUF, 'AZIZ BRIEF LEADERSHIP ON SUMMIT

JN141504 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn today chaired a joint meeting of the Ba'th Party National and Regional Commands and the Revolution Command Council. Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, vice president and head of the Iraqi delegation to the Seventh Nonaligned Summit, and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, submitted a report on the delegation's activities and on the work and results of the summit.

Ma'ruf and 'Aziz asserted that the Seventh Nonaligned Summit strongly and comprehensively backed up the efforts exerted to stop the war imposed on Iraq and called for solving the conflict through negotiations based on the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and international law. The overwhelming majority highly assessed Iraq's advocacy of peace.

Ma'ruf and 'Aziz pointed out that the isolation of the Iranian regime increased at the conference due to its persistence in prolonging the war and due to its hostile stands. The two Iraqi officials affirmed that, likewise, the isolation of the Iranian regime's allies -- the Syrian and Libyan regimes -- was indisputably confirmed when the overwhelming majority of the delegations irrevocably supported Iraq's hosting of the eighth nonaligned summit and turned down the Syrian and Libyan call to host the eighth summit.

The two officials affirmed that the summit's decision empowering the Nonaligned Ministerial Conference in 1985 to determine the venue of the eighth conference should, from the practical and realistic perspective, mean that the conference will be slated in Baghdad because Iraq is the sole candidate and its call has been adopted by the movement. Consequently, no one will be able to change this course in 1985, since this course has been strongly and comprehensively supported by the nonaligned states.

AGRICULTURE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH HUNGARY

JN121348 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA) -- A protocol on joint cooperation societies and the Hungarian national council of agricultural cooperatives was signed here today by Karim al-Jasim, chairman of the Iraqi federation, and Laszlo Fulop, vice president of the Hungarian council. The protocol provides for the exchange of agricultural expertise and experiments.

Laszlo Fulop is currently visiting Iraq at the head of a delegation.

RADIO REPORTS CARTER PRESS CONFERENCE 14 MAR

JN142102 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has expressed pleasure at visiting Jordan which gave him and his wife the opportunity of meeting with Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur.

At a press conference in the Royal Hashemite Court this evening, Carter said that he reviewed with His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the latest developments in the region and current international issues.

On Israel's policy of settlements, Carter said that it is a violation of the Camp David accords, the UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the Geneva conventions. He added that the establishment of settlements and the confiscation of land posed a very important obstacle to peace efforts in the region.

On Israel's interpretation of autonomy as applying only to the inhabitants, Carter said that this concept is contrary to the Camp David accords. Carter pointed out that his and the Egyptian side's understanding of autonomy is that it is a complete autonomous rule which covers both the inhabitants and the land and under which the inhabitants would enjoy full rights.

Carter added that he rejects the Israeli concept because it violates the Camp David accords and because it is a concept which lacks the components of autonomy in the fullest sense of the word.

On his concept of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, he said that the Palestinians have the right to choose what they consider suitable for defining the ultimate status of the occupied territories.

On his personal opinion about the subject, he said that the most appropriate status would be a federal union among the West Bank and Gaza and Jordan. He said that he hopes Jordan will join the proposed peace process, backed by the Palestinians and the Arab countries.

On Israel's invasion of Lebanon, he said that Israel's use of U.S. weapons is a violation of U.S. laws. He added that this invasion is another obstacle on the road to achieving peace in the region.

In response to a question on the possibility of his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, Carter said: I have met with a group of Palestinians, but as for 'Arafat, I will not meet him. Although I am an ordinary U.S. citizen, I remain committed to the U.S. Administration's decision of not holding contacts with the PLO because, as he claimed, it seeks to eliminate Israel. He added: We do not approve of this.

Carter Departs 14 Mar

JN142116 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Mrs Carter left Amman for Riyadh this evening following a 2-day visit to Jordan. Mr and Mrs Carter will then visit Syria, Lebanon, and Morocco.

KING HUSAYN TO LEAD ARAB DELEGATION TO UK

JN141232 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] A responsible source at the Royal Hashemite Court has stated that His Majesty King Husayn will lead the delegation of the seven-member Arab committee, which stemmed from the 12th Arab summit conference in Fes, on a scheduled visit to the UK in order to explain the Arab peace plan which was approved by the Arab leaders. This visit will begin on the 17th of this month.

The responsible source added that it has been decided to postpone the date of the visit Italian President His Excellency Alessandro Pertini was scheduled to pay to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 16 March. Another date for the visit will be fixed later by the two sides.

His Majesty King Husayn had earlier led the seven-member committee delegation on visits to France, the USSR, and the PRC, and explained to these countries' leaders the dimensions of the Arab peace plan.

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN ON AL-AQSA MOSQUE INCIDENT

JN121520 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Commenting on the latest attempt by an armed Jewish group to storm the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy Dome of the Rock to settle in them, an official spokesman has stated the following:

The Government of Jordan would like to recall the various acts of sabotage that have been committed against the Al-Aqsa Mosque since Israel's occupation of the Arab territories in 1967. If all previous acts have been attributed, at one time or another, to certain individuals, the latest one, judging by its size, objective, and organization, refutes all Israel's previous claims and clearly reveals an Israeli plan to completely destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque and raze it to the ground in order to build the temple in its place and thus wipe out the Islamic character of the holy city, in which the holy mosque -- the third holiest Islamic shrine -- stands as the symbol of our history, culture, and Islamic existence in this holy city, to which we will hold as tenaciously as we do to our own Islamic religion.

The participation of three rabbis in the planning and supervision of this extremely serious terrorist operation, along with several soldiers of the Israeli occupation army, who got their weapons from their military units, and a number of Jewish settlers, and the announcement in the Israeli news media that the Israeli authorities had foreknowledge of their operation and that Jewish religious circles and other Israeli quarters had supported the operation and its objectives, clearly reveal the black hatred harbored against the Arabs and Muslims, and the extremists, fanatic mentality which motivates Israel and affords all terrorist gangs the opportunity to commit such acts, which aim not only at emptying the occupied territory of its population, but also at pulling out the cultural roots of the Arab and Islamic nation, to which the Palestinian Arab people belong.

The Government of Jordan, which is fully aware of Israel's plans, points out the seriousness of the continuous escalation of such premeditated aggressions against holy and religious places. The attempt to storm the holy mosque 2 days ago is a new link in the chain of premeditated attacks on the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque which began with the attempt to burn down this mosque and was followed by the excavations that shook the foundations of this holy shrine, the planting of mines in its grounds, and the killing of worshippers inside the mosque itself.

Therefore, the Government of Jordan calls on the countries of the world and all international, political, religious, and cultural institutions to fully and clearly assume their responsibilities. It also warns Israel not to continue its religious, political, and cultural crimes against Islamic places of worship, especially the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy Dome of the Rock, due to their special holiness and meaning to hundreds of millions of Muslims in the world.

More on Al-Aqsa

JN121943 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Hasan Ibrahim received at the Foreign Ministry today the ambassadors of the Security Council permanent member states: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the PRC and the USSR. He conveyed to them the Jordanian Government's serious concern at the new Israeli attempt to destroy the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque at the hands of some extremist Zionist settlers, and to set up a Jewish settlement in its place.

Ibrahim also reviewed the repeated attempts against the Al-Aqsa Mosque during the past years -- attempts which affirm the Zionist authorities' premeditated aggressive intentions against the Islamic and Christian holy shrines in Jerusalem and the occupied land. The acting foreign minister informed them that the Jordanian Government draws the attention of the international community to the dangers of such attempts and their possible repercussions, a matter which will threaten stability and peace in the region and the world at large. He added that the Jordanian Government is calling on the big powers, the UN Security Council, and all international bodies to put an end to these dangerous attempts and take the necessary measures to stop aggression on the holy places in the occupied Arab territories.

Ibrahim handed the heads of the diplomatic missions a memorandum on the repeated aggressions to which the Al-Aqsa was exposed and on the Jordanian Government's stand. He sent similar memorandums to the Arab League secretary general, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the UN secretary general asking the Arab and Islamic states, as well as other states, to exert efforts to confront the danger of these aggressive attempts.

REPORTAGE ON TALKS IN WASHINGTON 14-15 MARCH

Tuwayni Interviewed

NC141230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, member of the Lebanese delegation in Washington -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] [Question] Hello, good morning. I am speaking to you from the Lebanese radio. I would like to ask you, Mr Ambassador, how would you sum up the first stage of your talks in Washington?

[Answer] The first stage of the talks was held on Saturday by the foreign minister, who briefed the U.S. secretary of state on the Lebanese viewpoint and the limits of what Lebanon can and cannot accept. All the U.S. circles and the U.S. public opinion were put in the picture regarding the Lebanese position.

[Question] [Israeli Foreign Minister] Shamir claimed that the Lebanese Army cannot guarantee security.

[Answer] We replied to this on the information level and said that this position is rejected, and that the Lebanese Army is ready to shoulder its full responsibilities. This is an Israeli excuse to maintain remnants of the occupation in southern Lebanon and to acquire military advantages in the south. [end recording]

Responds to Shamir's Statements

NC141804 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Excerpts] U.S. proposals on achieving the withdrawals from Lebanon will be discussed in Washington tonight.

According to the latest reports, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim at 1600 Beirut time [1400 GMT] today. Shultz was scheduled to have begun a second meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir half an hour ago. He will then hold a private meeting with [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, the personal envoy of President Amin al-Jumayyil. Shultz will host a working dinner at the U.S. State Department in honor of the Lebanese delegation tonight.

In a telephone contact with the national news agency today, Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni described this evening's meetings in Washington as decisive. Tuwayni said: The Lebanese offensive [al-iqtiham al-lubnani] in the U.S. capital is informational as well. When Israeli Minister Shamir was announcing the Israeli demands when emerging from the U.S. State Department yesterday, the Lebanese delegation was ready to answer these demands at the same time on radio and television stations. Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam and I explained the Lebanese question to the U.S. public. We stressed the need for full liberation and national sovereignty.

Answering Shamir's statement yesterday that the Lebanese army cannot establish security in the south, Tuwayni said: We immediately answered through the information media that the Lebanese Army is prepared to assume its full responsibilities and duties. Tuwayni described Shamir's statement as an Israeli excuse to maintain the vestiges of the occupation in the south and obtain military privileges. He noted that while it demands a strong Lebanese Army, Israel also draws up borders for this army in the south. Israel, he said, also demands security guarantees in the south and opposes the participation of the multinational forces in carrying out this task.

A short while ago, UPI transmitted from Washington a new statement by Shamir and a new answer by Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni. Prior to his meeting with Shultz, Shamir said in Washington: We will listen to the proposals of the U.S. secretary of state and his aides after we have explained all our views and stands. I believe that in today's discussions, we will hear the U.S. proposals. Im an interview with ABC, Shamir said: The negotiations will continue and I am confident that we will reach an agreement in the near future. It is our duty to do so. He added: We do not want to stay in Lebanon and we do not want a symbolic presence for more than a few years. We want some arrangements and cooperation to prevent the return of armed Palestinians to Lebanon.

In reply, Ambassador Tuwayni told ABC that the Lebanese Government is confident of its ability to ensure the security of Lebanon and Israel. He added: No state has ever before tried to stipulate the conclusion of an agreement as a condition for the withdrawal of its forces from another state.

According to the latest reports from Washington, U.S. President Ronald Reagan will receive Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at 2130 Beirut time tonight to convey to him Washington's dissatisfaction with the stumbling of the negotiations on the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from Lebanon.

Commenting on Shamir's statements regarding Israel's security demands, the White House spokesman said: There is no change in our policy on evicting all the foreign forces from Lebanon.

Salim Briefs Al-Wazzan

NC141855 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, who is now in Washington, tonight telephoned Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and briefed him on the atmosphere which has prevailed during the meetings and discussions that have been held with the U.S. side, particularly today's expanded and comprehensive meeting during which all the Lebanese ideas were presented.

Minister Salim expressed his satisfaction with the atmosphere that has prevailed during these meetings.

It has been learned that the Lebanese side still adheres to the paper which was recently agreed upon with U.S. envoy Ambassador Philip Habib in Beirut.

Salim Speaks of Progress

NC141929 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Following the expanded meeting which he held today with the U.S. secretary of state in Washington, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim said that progress has been made vis-a-vis the main issue, which is connected with the security arrangements and mutual relations.

Following his meeting with the Lebanese minister, the U.S. secretary held a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, whom President Reagan has summoned to the White House to meet with him.

Salam Criticizes Israelis

NC150754 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] The talks in Washington have so far shown no real and tangible progress.

Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam has said that in his contacts and meetings with U.S. officials he has felt that the Israelis have returned to the starting point in the negotiations. They again persisted in having observation points in Lebanese territory on the pretext that Lebanon is incapable of safeguarding its border with Israel for 5 years until the Lebanese Army completes its building process. The Israelis reject the participation of the UN emergency forces and the multinational force with the Lebanese Army in safeguarding the southern area up to the internationally recognized border.

Salam outlined that the Israelis are making matters difficult for the Americans in order to gain time, while they await more appropriate circumstances to dictate their conditions to Lebanon and the United States.

In any case, President Reagan is due to meet with former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam from whom he will receive a message from President al-Jumayyil. The message has been described as being important.

Meanwhile, well-informed sources said that the coming round of negotiations due to be held in Khaldah on Thursday will possibly be postponed pending the outcome of the current U.S.-Lebanese-Israeli talks in Washington.

More From Salam

NC150839 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] In an exclusive statement to a Voice of Lebanon correspondent in Washington, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam said that the Lebanese delegation which joined the foreign minister gives great importance to the Lebanese presence in Washington and proof of the Lebanese people's unity and cohesion. He said that he emerged with good impressions following his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

He said that there is understanding of the Lebanese situation, adding: We do not want a U.S. alignment but U.S. support of what is right.

In answer to a question, Salam said: I am optimistic and hope that we will achieve peace in the near future. He called for supporting President Shaykh Amin Al-Jumayyil in his moves to remove the occupation from Lebanese territory. He said he believes that the Israeli intransigence cannot continue in the presence of a united and strong Lebanese will.

SALIM, CHEYSSON STATEMENTS AFTER PARIS MEETING

NC120916 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] France has again emphasized its complete support of Lebanon, and this support will be confirmed by the visit which French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson has decided to make to Lebanon on 7 April. During his visit, he will also preside over a meeting of French ambassadors in the area.

This was agreed during the meeting Cheysson and [Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie] Salim held in [word indistinct] yesterday afternoon. On the French side, the meeting was attended by External Relations Ministry Secretary General Francis Guttman and the Minister's [Clause Cheysson's] adviser on Middle East affairs. On the Lebanese side, the meeting was attended by Lebanese ambassador in Paris Amir Faruq Abu al-Lam'.

After the 1-hour meeting, Minister Salim said: I discussed with Minister Cheysson the Lebanese issue and the decisive phase through which it is passing.

We also discussed international affairs and their effect on the situation in the Middle East; especially on the development of the situation in Lebanon. As usual, we obtained from Minister Cheysson every support for Lebanon. Minister Cheysson showed complete understanding of the Lebanese situation and the delicate negotiations Lebanon is holding. I explained to him all the points that have been discussed in the tripartite Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations. I also briefed him on the problems that still exist and that will be discussed with the U.S. secretary of state. I also took his advice and guidance on this.

Minister Salim said: Cheysson is a close and great friend of Lebanon and he stands on our side as if he were a real Lebanese citizen. It pleases me to announce on this occasion that Minister Cheysson has accepted my invitation to visit Lebanon. He will come to Lebanon on 7 April, and this will be an occasion to call all the French ambassadors in the Middle East to attend the important meeting which the minister will hold in Beirut. This visit will be to assert France's support of Lebanon and the leading role Lebanon represents in the Arab world and the Middle East and to prove that Lebanon, despite all the war tragedies it has experienced, continues to be the main center in France's eyes. When France wishes to hold an important conference for its ambassadors, Beirut and no other place is the location for such a meeting.

Asked if the purpose of his visit to Beirut is to prepare for a new French initiative in the area, Minister Cheysson said: the top priority in the Middle East is the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from Lebanon and the restoration of complete sovereignty over Lebanese territory by the legitimately elected authority of President Amin al-Jumayyil. We did not talk about other problems at present, because our attention is focused only on this subject. This matter depends on the tripartite negotiations among the Lebanese, the Israelis, and the Americans. We are not a party to the negotiations and, therefore, I believe that any statement on these negotiations would only complicate matters. We most certainly support Lebanon's stand and future. The Lebanese authorities alone are qualified to define Lebanon's stand. We are happy that the Americans are present and that they sometimes use their influence on Israel. Their influence on Israel is stronger than our influence on it. For this reason, we support the Americans in this endeavor. We are not playing a direct role in the negotiations, but we are playing an indirect role through the multinational force to support the Lebanese Army. When Lebanon presents any request or proposal for us to do more than that, we will be prepared to study it. I believe that we have thus far promptly fulfilled what has been requested of us. There are no new Lebanese proposals, but we are hopefully waiting and praying for speedy progress in the negotiations.

After that, Minister Salim talked to journalists at the hotel in which he was staying in Paris. Replying to journalists' questions, Minister Salim said that President al-Jumayyil has briefed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the negotiations and that President al-Asad showed full understanding of Lebanon's role in the tripartite negotiations, expressed complete support of President al-Jumayyil's stand and repeated Syria's readiness and eagerness to withdraw its forces as soon as Israel makes the political decision to withdraw so as to avoid upsetting the strategic balance. It was agreed to maintain contacts between the two presidents through a person who will shuttle between the two countries. He described the [Al-Jumayyil-Al-Asad] meeting as having been important and effective.

On the meeting which President al-Jumayyil held with 'Arafat, Minister Salim said that 'Arafat showed full understanding of Lebanon's request that the [Palestinian] armed resistance be withdrawn, expressed his readiness to do everything that will expedite the withdrawals and ensure Lebanon's independence, and said that the resistance's decision will be made as soon as Israel makes the political decision to withdraw.

Minister Salim said: The Lebanese paper to the Nonaligned Summit Conference received Syrian and Palestinian approval. The important thing is that the paper points to the withdrawal of all the foreign forces and that it has received Syrian and Palestinian support and an Arab consensus, (?which) constitutes an important supportive political stand in the negotiations with Israel and reduces Israel's excuses.

On President al-Jumayyil's meeting with [Libyan] Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Minister Salim said: The Libyan official came with an impression and left with a different one. At the beginning, Major Jallud showed reservations and apprehension about the negotiations. After 2 hours of discussions, he emerged with an understanding of Lebanon's stand, which he described as patriotic and courageous and expressed Libya's readiness to provide every assistance.

SYRIAN, PALESTINIAN REINFORCEMENTS IN TRIPOLI

JN141746 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Grave tension still prevails in the Lebanese northern capital, Tripoli, generated by the fierce clashes and the Syrian and Palestinian reinforcements. The clashes have so far left three persons dead and a number of others wounded. Businesses and shops are still closed and traffic has come to a standstill.

DEFENSE MINISTER SAYS ARMY READY TO DEPLOY

NC142025 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Defense Minister Isam Khuri has emphasized that the Army is prepared to deploy on all Lebanese territory and to assume its full responsibility in maintaining peace and security. He said that Lebanon cannot perform its distinguished role in the area and in the international arena if it does not enjoy peace and prosperity.

Minister Khuri was speaking during a dinner banquet which he hosted tonight in honor of Irish Defense Minister Patrick Cooney and members of his delegation, who arrived this afternoon in the presence of Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus, Chief of Staff Brigadier General Nadim al-Hakim, and senior officers. Khuri will hold a meeting with the Irish minister tomorrow, Tuesday.

SOCIALISTS REPORTEDLY ENCIRCLE HAMMANA BARRACKS

NC141238 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Socialist and leftist armed men have encircled the Hammana barracks in upper Al-Matn. They distributed leaflets accusing the military men there of sectarianism and warning them against roaming in the area. They said that they would cut all roads in upper Al-Matn for 2 days and demand that 16 March be a national day.

PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED ON TALKS WITH DPRK

JN1420Z8 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 14 Mar (SANA) -- A joint press statement has been issued in Damascus and Pyongyang on the talks held between an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation, led by Comrade Mahmud az-Zu'bi, a member of the National Command and the People's Assembly speaker, and a Korean Workers Party [KWP] delegation led by Comrade Hwang Chang-op, the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly chairman and the secretary of the party's Central Committee, which visited the country 6-13 March at the invitation of the Ba'th Party's National Command.

The statement said that the talks were held in an atmosphere of mutual friendship, confidence, and complete understanding on the raised issues. The talks dealt with the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two parties and the two friendly countries and their joint desire to further bolster these relations to serve the joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and the fascist authorities in South Korea.

The statement paid special attention to the grave and tense situation in the Middle East, which is the result of Israel's continued aggressive and expansionist policy, represented by the brutal aggression against Lebanon, the occupation of large areas of Lebanese territory, the threats against Syria, and the preparations for a new aggression against it.

The statement firmly denounced this aggression -- which is backed by the United States -- as well as Israel's terrorist practices, killing, and barbaric massacres of civilians.

The two sides called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces from Lebanon and reiterated their support for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity.

The two sides spoke highly of the heroic steadfastness of the Syrian and Palestinian revolution's forces as well as of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in the face of this aggression. They condemned the Israeli decisions to annex Arab Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Arab territories in the Golan, Israel's terrorist practices in the occupied Arab territories, and the construction of settlements.

They considered these aggressive acts as the fruition of the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel in implementation of the Zionist expansionist policy and in accordance with the imperialist U.S. military and political presence in the Middle East, which aims at liquidating the Palestinian cause.

The two sides stressed that a just and durable peace in the Middle East will not be attained unless complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, is achieved, and the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state in Palestine under their sole legitimate representate, the PLO, are recognized.

The two sides voiced their deep concern over the deteriorating situation in the Korean Peninsula in light of the imperialist U.S. plots. They evaluated highly the Korean people's struggle to reunite their country in an independent and peaceful manner. They condemned, in this regard, the war maneuvers now held in South Korea by the imperialist U.S. forces and the agent forces of South Korea, as well as the attempts to form new military blocs in Asia, which increases the possibilities of war in the Korean Peninsula.

The two sides called for ending the U.S. occupation of South Korea, stressing the need that all foreign forces, which are stationed there, should leave without any conditions so the Korean people can unify their homeland in a peaceful and independent manner.

The Syrian and Korean sides demonstrated their solidarity with the Asian, African, and Latin American peoples in their struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and racism. The KWP expressed appreciation for the successes scored by the Ba'th Party, led by Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, in all economic, social, political, and cultural fields. The KWP reiterated its solidarity with the Syrian people against the preparations currently made by Israel, with the support of U.S. imperialism, to launch a new premeditated aggression against Syria.

The Ba'th Party delegation commended the numerous successes realized by the friendly Korean people, led by the KWP and its Secretary General Kim Il-song, stressing its solidarity with the Korean people in their struggle for socialist building and in defense of the homeland.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the relations of friendship and cooperation between their two parties and countries, affirming that they would work diligently to develop these relations. A new joint cooperation agreement for 1983-84 has been signed between the two parties.

CUBAN CP VOICES SUPPORT FOR BA'TH PARTY

JN141512 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 14 Mar (SANA) -- In a message received by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command on the 20th anniversary of the 8 March revolution, the Cuban Communist Party's Central Committee has affirmed its stand alongside Syria's just struggle against imperialism and Zionism, toward liberating the land, and foiling all expansionist designs in the region.

The committee affirmed the importance of reinforcing friendship between the Cuban Communist Party and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in their joint struggle against U.S. imperialism and racist Zionism. In conclusion, the message called for unifying all efforts by the world nationalist and progressive forces to confront the imperialist challenges facing the interests of nations that are struggling for their freedom and sovereignty.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL ON ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN SUMMIT

JN141435 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 14 Mar (SANA) -- Comrade Muhammad Haydar, Ba'th Party National Command member and head of the Foreign Relations Department, received here today the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Damascus. They discussed the situation in the Arab Maghreb and the developments in the relations of the Arab Maghreb countries among themselves, particularly the recent summit meeting between Algeria and Morocco.

Comrade Haydar expressed the hope that this summit would be a good opportunity to settle peripheral disputes among Arab Maghreb countries in view of strengthening the Arab nation's steadfastness and confrontation of the imminent Zionist danger which is a threat to the existence of the Arab nation at large.

The Moroccan charge d'affaires expressed appreciation for President Hafiz al-Asad's fraternal stands represented by his recurrent attempts to solve disputes among Arab Maghreb countries on the basis of unifying Arab efforts for the protection of the Arab nation's interests and just causes.

SHAMIR COMMENTS AFTER MEETINGS WITH REAGAN, SHULTZ

TA150533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] The United States and Israel agree on the principle that cooperation between the Lebanese and Israeli armies in southern Lebanon is necessary, but the nature of this cooperation should be discussed in additional talks in Khaldah and Netanya. This is the brief conclusion of lengthy talks between Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Last night, Shamir conferred with President Reagan at the White House. The foreign minister spoke with our correspondent in Washington, Shalom Qital, following the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Qital] Mr Foreign Minister, today you had the opportunity to meet President Reagan, 6 months since the last time you saw him. In that period, a great deal of murky water has flowed in the relations between the two countries. What did you hear from President Reagan in the meeting?

[Shamir] I must say that this talk was much more pleasant than the one you mentioned, and the President did everything possible to give it such a nature, of friendship toward Israel; of the need -- as the president phrased it -- to find the golden mean between Lebanese sovereignty and Israel's security needs. However, in addition to Lebanon, he also spoke about the effort for a peace process in the region.

[Question] What did he say about Israeli-U.S. relations?

[Answer] He said that the relations are good, and should be better and closer. He also noted that we should talk more with each other rather than about each other.

[Question] You met U.S. Secretary of State Shultz for a series of talks lasting over 8 hours in the last 2 days. What did you achieve in these talks?

[Answer] It is no secret that the United States is usually opposed to a lengthy and permanent Israeli military presence in Lebanon -- that is known, we did not have to learn about it in these talks. However, as I said, these talks were not by means of negotiations between us and the United States. The negotiations are being conducted in this region. Here we tried to coordinate positions and to present agreement about the principles which must guide the negotiations between us and Lebanon with the participation of the United States. One of the principles is the need for cooperation between the Israeli and Lebanese forces in order to maintain security in the security zone. In general, this principle is acceptable to the United States. The details and the specifics of the implementation of this principle are subject to the negotiations being held in this region. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Shamir will hold meetings with senators and congressmen in Washington today, and will later leave en route to Israel.

Shamir To Meet Reagan 15 March

TA141455 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1450 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will meet U.S. President Ronald Reagan tomorrow, and for this reason has extended his visit to Washington by 24 hours. Shamir will meet again with his U.S. counterpart George Shultz in about an hour.

On a television interview this afternoon, Shamir said that the solution to the Lebanon problem will be achieved through close cooperation between the IDF and the Lebanese Army in order to prevent the terrorists' return. He stressed that Israel does not want to stay permanently in southern Lebanon, but for 2 or 3 years at most, in the form of warning stations there.

REAGAN'S MESSAGE TO BEGIN ON SOVIET JEWS

TA141309 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick gave the prime minister a message from the President of the United States. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, reports that the message primarily deals with the plight of the Soviet Jews, and it includes a pledge by Reagan that the United States will continue to do its utmost to get the Soviet Jews out.

CHIEF OF STAFF EYTAN ON LEBANON, SAM-5'S

TA131958 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1940 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, 13 Mar (ITIM) -- "The stationing of the Soviet SAM-5's in Syria has a political and a military aspect but it is still difficult to state today which is the major one. This was stated this afternoon by Chief of Staff Lietenant General Rafa'el Eytan at the Engineering Club in Bet Hamehandes in Jerusalem.

The speaker noted that the main objectives of the Lebanese war, which were to remove the terrorists from the northern border and prevent them from establishing a state within a state, were obtained ani that remaining now are the negotiations intended to capitalize on these achievements and make sure that the terrorists will indeed not return to Lebanon and convert it into what it used to be in the past.

The chief of staff stressed that the IDF has never been told of a restriction of 40 or 50 km in Lebanon. He added that there was no intention to take over Beirut, but when president-designate Bashir al-Jumayyil was murdered, the fear arose that in view of the future uncertainty, the terrorists would return to Beirut.

In response to another question, the chief of staff expressed his opinion that it is the Arab countries and not Israel that should solve the Palestinian problem. "The Palestinian problem concerns 22 Arab countries and their huge resources. It is not we who should solve it. Do we lack problems of our own?" The chief of staff asked. He mentioned that thousands of Jews still constitute a problem in the various countries around the world and their lives are in danger. "We should first solve the problems of our people before we undertake the Palestinian problem," he said.

Further Eytan Remarks

TA140841 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] The stationing of Soviet missiles in Syria could have political as well as military implications, Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan said last night. Li'or Friedman brings excerpts of the chief of staff's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Eytan] We do not know what the ultimate intentions of the Soviets are, and whether this might not also involve a move aimed against the Americans. After all, there is an intersuperpower struggle here. So, since we are not sure on this matter, since the Soviets are the ones to man those missiles, not the Syrians, and since they operate independently in the units near those missiles -- that is to say, the Soviets -- then let us give 50 percent importance to the political aspect, and the other 50 percent to the military aspect.

[Friedman] The chief of staff said that the presence of the Soviet missiles in Syria could constitute a political bargaining chip between the Soviet Union and the United States in reaction to the introduction of the Marines into Beirut. On the other hand, this action could also have a political implication for Israel. He said:

[Eytan] Regarding us, this could have political aspects as well if the Soviets claim that we are guarding the Syrians. Therefore, if you think of doing something to the Syrians, remember that we are in the area. [end recording]

ARENS, MINISTERS VIEW SETTLEMENTS, INCIDENTS

TA141041 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Mar 83 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Tuvya Mendelsson]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Moshe Arens views settlements in the West Bank as an element which lessens tensions; in his opinion, the recent incidents in the West Bank should not affect the momentum of settlements. This was reported by authoritative political sources.

Minister Arens said in the Cabinet meeting yesterday that it would be possible to achieve quiet in the West Bank much faster if sharper methods are adopted, but he emphasized he will not issue instructions for a firmer policy that would contradict the IDF's moral norms. Arens asked the deputy chief of staff and the commander of the Central Command to submit to him soon a detailed report on the incidents in the West Bank and the current ways of handling them.

The Cabinet yesterday held a discussion about recent incidents in the West Bank, and in view of the defense minister's remarks, it is expected that he will study the issue in the coming days before he decides which policy he will recommend.

A discussion was held following the defense minister's relatively short review of the situation. In the course of the discussion, ministers expressed their views about the need to ensure to both Jews and Arabs that they can move on West Bank roads safely and peacefully. Other ministers shared the opinion that the larger the number of settlers in Judaea and Samaria, the quieter the atmosphere will become; and the quieter the atmosphere is, the more people will want to settle in the West Bank.

In reviewing the recent incidents in the West Bank, the defense minister tried to dwell on their source. In his estimation, the former U.S. president's visit to the region may have heated up the atmosphere in the West Bank. Arens also did not exclude the possibility that the tour he himself held in the territories recently may have caused some ferment, and that there are West Bank elements who want to try out the new defense minister.

Political sources in Jerusalem stressed that in the Cabinet meeting Arens said he would do all he can to find ways to guarantee that the settlers do not find themselves compelled to resort to self-defence. This is construed by the sources as a hint about criticism by Arens on the quantities of arms possessed by the settlers.

POST CITES REASONS FOR TERRITORIES UNREST

TA140915 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[News analysis by David Richardson]

[Excerpts] Senior military sources anticipate that the current level of violence on the West Bank will continue until the end of April, focusing on traditional days of protest which last year saw more than 15 persons killed in clashes with security forces. But the sources warn that unlike last year's unrest, the recent pattern of vigilant action by Jewish settlers could provoke more serious outbreaks of violence and even terrorist actions.

The almost daily reports of stone-throwing attacks on Israeli military and civilian traffic have been a feature of the West Bank for almost six months. Collective punishments, such as curfews and local "closures" and the welding of stores are ineffective in many cases, military sources acknowledge, stressing at the same time that in any case they are reluctant to employ these indiscriminately. But given the constraints most of the commanders willingly operate under, they have little other recourse.

The recent upsurge in the level of violence has a number of causes, according to both military and local Palestinian sources, although the order of importance is diametrically opposed. For the army officers and security personnel involved, the recent PNC congress in Algiers revived nationalist passions in the area, particularly among the youth.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in one of his final speeches at the council, paid tribute to the "RPG kids" who fought against the IDF in Lebanon last summer and to the "rock kids" who are at the forefront of the "Palestinian resistance" in the territories, one source recalled.

These military sources also intimate (although for their own reasons of security are unwilling to prove the point) that pro-PLO agitators in the area receive and allocate money for stirring up students to raise the Palestinian flag, erect roadblocks, burn tyres and hurl stones.

These sources noted that the next 40 days include traditional days of protest, such as Land Day (March 30), the anniversary of the Dayr Yassin massacre (April 9), Palestinian prisoner day (April 17), Israel Independence Day (April 18) and the anniversaries of the foundation of several Palestinian organizations associated with the PLO.

The appointment of a new defence minister and last week's visit of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who in the eyes of the Palestinians bears most of the "blame" for the Camp David accords, also generated tension.

Senior officers in the area stress that military patrols have strict instructions to avoid, as far as possible, resorting to firearms. The number of shooting incidents involving soldiers has sharply decreased. During the unrest following Carter's high-speed tour through Ramallah, the army for the first time employed water cannon with an indelible dye in a disturbance of this scale.

Because of the difficulty of catching stone-throwing youths, who disappear into the narrow alleys of a refugee camp or among their friends in a school courtyard, and of proving their guilt in court, it is hoped that improved techniques of identifications and intelligence and heavy fines will eventually make the price of stone-throwing as a form of protest too high.

But even then, nearly every military commander in the area is quick to repeat the key phrase for all those who serve in the territories: "The solution is political, not military, if there is a solution at all."

PEACE NOW DELEGATION TO MEET PLO REPRESENTATIVE

TA141108 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Mar 83 p 2

["Special report" from France by Gid'on Kuts]

[Text] Paris -- The Peace Now movement's delegation, which will visit Europe next week, will confer in Paris with the adviser of the PLO leader, 'Isam as-Sartawi. This was concluded in a meeting As-Sartawi held with representatives of the "collective Jewish left" in France, to which friends of the Peace Now movement also belong.

"The center for Middle East peace," which has been set up recently, intends to hold an Israeli-Arab peace rally in Paris in May, and hopes that Israeli personages will participate in it, as well as senior Arab and Palestinian figures.

"The center for Middle East peace" has informed King Hassan II of its readiness to participate in the Israeli-Palestinian contacts conducted under the king's aegis in Morocco, according to the public invitation he extended for this in a press interview. However, it still remains to find representatives from the other side.

ISRAEL, EGYPT HOLD COMMERCIAL TALKS IN CAIRO

TA141056 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1036 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] The director general of the Commerce and Industry Ministry, Avraham Asheri, said today in Cairo that the talks between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations that began at the Mena House Hotel are aimed at implementing the trade agreement between the two countries. We are considering ways to promote the exchange of goods between the countries both in the public and private sectors.

The head of the Egyptian delegation to the talks, (Wafa' ad-Din), reacted by saying: We will try to solve every problem, if something crops up. Israeli sources in Cairo have told an AP correspondent that the central problem is the Egyptian refusal to grant import licenses to goods from Israel, which has been in effect since the war in Lebanon broke out.

EYTAN ON EGYPTIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT

TA111409 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Mar 83 p 4

[Report by Eytan Ortsman]

[Excerpt] In a meeting with students at a school in Kefar Sava yesterday, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan stated that "if Egypt develops nuclear weapons and sells it to another country, this will constitute a threat to Israel. However, in my opinion, Egypt will not do that. It began developing nuclear weapons because of its instinct to compete with India."

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES REMOVES REFERENCE TO ISRAEL

TA140919 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] The director of Austrian Airlines in Israel said this morning that Israel's name was only struck off those company publications intended for Arab countries. This was done due to the Arab ban on the use of flight tickets or any other publication or information leaflet in which Israel's name appears. According to the director of Austrian Airlines, all the airlines do the same, and all have two versions of publications, one of which is intended for the Arab countries. He emphasized that on all the other company publications geared for the entire world, Israel's name was not omitted. He was speaking to our correspondent Beni Rom.

Sharir Urges 'Reaction'

TA140920 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0840 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir this morning called on the Israeli public to react to those airlines that have erased Israeli's name from their publications, and mentioned that those companies are KLM, TWA, AUA, and Sabena. I think, Sharir told our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar, that the Israeli public will know how to react to this, just as it did at the time when similar manifestations were found in Mexico.

POLL SHOWS LIKUD STILL FAVORED OVER ALIGNMENT

TA111427 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Mar 83 p 1

[Dahaf public opinion poll]

[Text] One month after the Kahan commission's findings were released, the political picture has returned to its configuration before the commission was established: The Likud leads with a large edge (16 seats) over the Alignment. As far as the rest of the parties are concerned, there have been no significant changes.

These findings emerge from a public opinion poll conducted for the YEDI'OT AHARONOT editorial board on the last week of February by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr Mina Tzemah. The poll involved a representative sample of 1,188 Jews. The vote of the kubbutzim and the Arab sector was also taken into account in the calculations.

An analysis of the findings indicates that the Likud's strengthening stems, among other things, from the vote of youths who did not vote in the previous elections. About 60 percent of this sector expressed their intention to vote for the Likud.

The question was: Were elections held today, which list would you vote for? The answers are quoted in number of seats and the figures in brackets indicate the current situation in the Knesset: Likud -- 57 (48); Alignment -- 41 (49); National Religious Party -- 5 (6); Agudat Yisra'el -- 4 (4); TAMI -- 1 (3); Shinuy -- 3 (2); Citizens' Rights Movement -- 1 (1); Tehiya -- 3 (3); SHELI -- 1 (-); HADASH -- 4 (4).

Note: Compared with the poll conducted in January, immediately after the release of the Kahan commission's findings which indicated a slight drop for the Likud and a slight rise for the Alignment, it seems that the February poll denotes that the situation has returned to that existing before the publication of the findings.

TRADE DEFICIT INCREASES BY ALMOST 20 PERCENT

TA150737 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Mar 83 p 1

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Israel's $557 million trade deficit for the first two months of 1983 was almost 20 percent higher than that of the corresponding period last year.

Figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics show that the increased deficit was caused by a $50 million rise in the country's imports together with a $39 million drop in exports.

Imports in the January-February period totalled $1,307 million compared to $1,257 million in the same period of 1982 -- a 4 percent increase.

The rise in imports consisted primarily of a 20 percent increase in the import of consumption goods, especially of private cars. Car imports jumped from $34 million in January-February 1982 to $45 million in the first two months of 1983 -- a 33 percent increase. Food product imports increased by 17 percent.

The import of investment goods also showed a considerable increase, rising from $94 million in January-February 1982 to $122 million in the same period this year.

The effects of the rising imports were mitigated, however, by a 17 percent drop in the cost of oil imports, caused mainly by the sharp drop in oil prices in international markets.

Exports of merchandise declined by 5 percent over the January-February 1982 period -- from $795 million to $756 million.

Industrial exports declined by 3.5 percent, while diamond exports rose by 9 percent.

The largest drop in exports was registered by the agricultural sector, whose sales abroad declined by 26 percent -- from $147 million in January-February 1982 to $109 million in the same period this year.

ARENS SAYS LAVI PROJECT TO PROCEED AT 'FULL SPEED'

TA150732 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Mar 83 p 3

[ITIM report]

[Text] The development programme for the Lavi fighter is to proceed "full speed ahead," Defence Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday.

Arens was speaking at the end of a tour of Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] installations during which he concentrated on the Lavi project.

With him were Air Force Commander Major General 'Amos Lapidot, Defence Ministry Director General Aharon Bet-Halahmi; previous air force commander, now chairman of IAI, David 'Ivri, and senior officials of the government company.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES SURINAME LEADER

LD141429 Tripoli JANA in English 0954 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada 30, March 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, met yesterday with Lt.-Colonel Daysi Bouterse, the head of the National Military Council, who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

CUBAN MINISTER LEVI FARAH LEAVES TRIPOLI 13 MARCH

LD141417 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada 30, Mar 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The Cuban minister of construction Levi Farah [title as received] left Tripoli yesterday evening after ending a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

'ARAFAT MAKES STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL 14 MARCH

LD141457 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Fes this morning. He is leading an important delegation that includes in particular Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the Fatah Central Committee; and Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council responsible for unified information of the Palestinian revolution.

Yasir 'Arafat made the following statement to the radio:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I intended to come and visit his majesty the king and my brother here in Morocco immediately after the conclusion of the work of the Palestine National Council. However the relief that took place in the blessed Algerian-Moroccan bilateral meeting slightly delayed this visit, a matter that led me to go to New Delhi to catch up with the second (?stage) of the nonaligned summit meetings held in India. Faced with the successful conclusion of these meetings at foreign ministers and summit levels and with this great support for the Arab stance adopted in Fes by the conference, composed of 101 full member-states in addition to observers and guests bringing the number of those present to 116, with the complete approval and blessing for the Arab plan approved by the Fes Arab summit conference, with the agreement to set up an eight-member committee at summit level from the nonaligned countries, with India as chairman, including Bangladesh, Zambia, Senegal, Cuba, Yugoslavia, Algeria and the PLO to work in cooperation with the seven-member committee on the Palestine question, to contact all parties concerned with this issue at the international level, and to (?extend) backing to the Arabs and to back the seven-member Arab committee in its regional and international moves -- faced with all these issues and rapid developments, I naturally had to come with my brethren to meet with his majesty the king and to hold consultations about all these matters and good results, and also to [words indistinct], namely the new attack against Al-Aqsa mosque a few days ago, when I was at the New Delhi conference, when a number of Israeli soldiers and settlers stormed the mosque and tried to set up a settlement in the mosque's court. Undoubtedly this is an extremely grave event that we must discuss with his majesty the king in his capacity and chairman of the Jerusalem Committee.

In this respect also I must underline our great satisfaction with the speech by the Kingdom of Morocco delivered by the crown prince at the Nonaligned Conference: It genuinely and clearly expressed the Kingdom's firm and lasting stance in support of the just Palestinian question and in support of the struggle and conflict of the Palestinian people, not only at the regional level but at the world and international levels. [end recording]

King Hassan Receives 'Arafat

LD142254 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II this evening received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, at the royal palace in (Bughiat).

The meeting was attended on the Moroccan side by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Muhammad; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta; and his Majesty's advisers Ahmad Rida Ghdirah and Ahmed Bensouda.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Abu Mazin, [Mahmud 'Abbas] member of the PLO Executive Committee and of the Fatah Central Committee; Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and in charge of the unified information of the Palestine revolution; and Abu Marwan the PLO representative in Rabat.

PRIME MINISTER FORMS NEW POLITICAL PARTY

LD111801 Rabat MAP in English 1207 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Casablanca, March 11 (MAP) -- A new political party, "The Constitutional Union," (al-ittihad ad-doustouri) has just been created by Moroccan premier, Mr Maati Bouabid.

To this effect, representatives of the Kingdom's forty seven provinces and prefectures attended Wednesday in Casablanca, a meeting presided over by Mr Bouabid and the secretary of state for youth and sports, Mr Abdellatif Semlali. During this meeting, the participants were informed of the 31 articles making up the party statute, as well as the amendments introduced to it. The new party will be officially registered today, Friday.

The objectives of the "Constitutional Union" are the orientation of the post-independence generation to make it participate in all the country's activities, economic, social, and cultural justice, the defense of the country's territorial integrity within the framework of the constitutional monarchy and behind the person of King Hassan II, and the reinforcement of relations with all brotherly and friendly countries.

With the creating of this party, the number of political formations in Morocco becomes twelve, most of which are represented in the 267 seat parliament.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI CANDIDATE FOR THIRD TERM OF PRESIDENCY

EA112145 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Mr Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd al-Hafiz, the rapporteur of the committee for the popular referendum on the presidency of the republic, declared in a statement to SUNA today that Citizen Field Marshal Ja'far Muhammad Numayri is the candidate for the presidency of the republic for the third term in the popular referendum, which will be held from 14-25 April.

NUMAYRI MEETS LIBYAN OPPOSITION LEADER

JN121537 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Mar (SUNA) -- President Numayri received Dr Muhammad Yusuf al-Maqrif, secretary general of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, here today.

Later, Dr al-Maqrif said that he conveyed to President Numayri the Libyan people's fraternal sentiments to Sudan as well as their wishes for its continuous success in all walks of life under the leadership of President Numayri. Dr al-Maqrif also extended the front's congratulations on the success of the SSU fourth national congress and said the congress was a festival during which the Arab and African nations expressed their sentiments to Sudan's leadership and people.

Dr al-Maqrif said that he conveyed to President Numayri the Libyan citizens' denunciation of Al-Qadhdhafi's provocations and conspiracies against Sudan.

On Sudan's role in the Nonaligned Summit Conference, Dr al-Maqrif said that Sudan is playing the serious role that it is qualified to play. He added that the National Front for the Salvation of Libya managed to convey the Libyan people's voice to the conference and to acquaint the conferees with Al-Qadhdafi's rule by means of the memorandum which the front sent to the conference.

Al-Maqrif condemned Al-Qadhdhafi's subversive plot against fraternal Egypt by Libya calling for the expulsion of Egypt from the conference.

Regarding President Mubarak's statements, Al-Maqrif said that, at a time when Al-Qadhdhafi claimed to be extending the hand of friendship to Egypt, he was extending the hand of treachery.

Dr al-Maqrif expressed the Libyan people's denunciation of Al-Qadhdhafi's provocations and plotting against Sudan on 18 February this year.

TUNISIA

ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION ARRIVES

LD141602 Algiers APS in English 1009 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Tunisia, 14/3/83 (APS) -- An Algerian high level delegation headed by Mr Abdelkader Benkaci, deputy secretary general of Foreign Affairs Ministry, arrived yesterday in Tunisia.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Mr Abdelghani Akbi, CC member and Algerian ambassador to Tunisia, Mr Amor Fezzani, secretary general of Tunisian Foreign Affairs Ministry, as well as by Tunisian high officials.

The Algerian delegation's sojourn comes within the framework of the official visit that President Chadli is due to make to Tunisia as from 18 to 20 March.

ETHIOPIA

USSR'S BAYBAKOV CONTINUES VISIT 11-12 MAR

10-Year Plan Assistance

EA122222 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] The leader of the visiting high-level delegation of the State Planning Committee of the Soviet Union has said that the USSR will give the necessary material assistance for the implementation of Ethiopia's 10-year prospective plan aimed at improving the standards of living of the people and laying the foundation for socialist construction.

Tours Natural Gas Project

EA112045 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Comrade Nikolay Baybakov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Planning Committee and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet, accompanied by Comrade Addis Tedla, Provisional Military Administrative Council Standing Committee member, vice chairman of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign, and the Central Supreme Plan Council, and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Committee member, yesterday visited the fuel and natural gas exploration project at (Shilavo), Ogaden Province in Harerghe region.

Comrade engineer Aytenfiso Tekeze-Shoa, minister of mines, energy, and water resources, said that he is confident that the intention of the USSR Government and people to complete the project will be strengthened as the broad masses of Ethiopia are awaiting eagerly the results and completion of the project.

Concludes Visit

EA132222 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Comrade Nikolay Baybakov has said that the achievements in the construction of socialist society in rural Ethiopia are strong foundations and reflect the struggle's bright objectives.

Comrade Nikolay Baybakov, CPSU Central Committee member, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Planning Committee, and member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, said this today in a statement on his way home after completing his tour of Ethiopia.

Comrade Baybakov disclosed that the efforts to organize the peasants into cooperatives will create favorable conditions for the construction of a socialist system. In this respect, the priority given to the economic development of the country in agriculture and the efforts in peasants associations and in the strengthening of the state farms would allow a food surplus to be produced.

Comrade Baybakov, referring to the two countries' economic cooperation, noted that agricultural cooperation had grown and agriculture and industry will have the highest place in future cooperation.

ERITREAN OFFICIAL ON BATTLES WITH ETHIOPIANS

GF111418 Doha QNA in Arabic 1222 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Doha, 11 Mar (QNA) -- The Ethiopian forces failed yesterday and for the third time in their attempts to penetrate the positions of the Eritrean revolutionaries around the city of Barentu in western Eritrea.

Mr Mohamed Osman (Abu Bakr), the representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front -- popular liberation forces, stated to QNA that fierce battles are currently being waged by the revolutionaries against the Ethiopian forces in Barka Valley in the western district of Eritrea, and that 90 Ethiopian soldiers were killed yesterday. He added that a huge ammunition dump was destroyed when a suicide squad belonging to the popular liberation forces surprised the rear lines of the Ethiopian forces and clashed with them using light arms and hand to hand fighting.

Mr (Abu Bakr), who is currently visiting Doha to brief the officials on the serious developments in the Eritrean arena, said that the Ethiopian campaign that is being launched now against the Barka Valley in Eritrea and in which Ethiopia has deployed more than 20,000 soldiers has so far failed in the seizure of the fortified positions of the revolutionaries in the region. He added that the Ethiopian forces are advancing toward the area with extreme difficulty amid ambushes by the men of the Eritrean Liberation Front.

The Eritrean official indicated that Ethiopia is now intensifying its military campaigns against Eritrea and is deploying all its huge military facilities in order to liquidate the Eritrean question while making use of the world's preoccupation with the Iraqi-Iranian war, the events in Lebanon and other world developments and events.

Mr (Abu Bakr) said that the Ethiopian planes continue their bombardment of Eritrean towns and villages, thus inflicting heavy losses in life, buildings, farms and cattle upon which the inhabitants rely in earning their living. He said that three villages to the west of the city of (?Mareitu) were completely destroyed and deserted by their inhabitants, hundreds of whom were killed as a result of the Ethiopian air raids.

SOMALIA

OPPOSITION FORCES CLAIM BATTLE SUCCESSES

In Mogadishu

EA132212 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Fighters from the 3d Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces have blasted important places in the country's capital, Mogadishu.

This action by the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces was launched between the end of February and the beginning of March. The fighters blasted the Italian Embassy in Mogadishu, the oil depot in (Bondere) on the outskirts of the city, parts of Mogadishu port, and other places.

The latest report from Mogadishu confirms that these explosions set off by our fighters have led to the imposition of a night curfew in the town. The reports add that several officials, most of them civil servants, have been imprisoned.

According to other reports from the 3d General Gabayreh Division of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces, their fighters blew up a Fiat TM military vehicle belonging to the 16th Battalion of the 6th Regiment of the forces still loyal to Barre's regime between (Bonei) and (Far Ferei) in Bai region. The Muhammad Siad Barre forces in the vehicle sustained two soldiers and seven others seriously injured. This action was carried out by the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces at the beginning of March.

In Hargeisa District

EA142243 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] The fighters of the Somali national movement wing of the Somali opposition forces have attacked bases of forces still loyal to Siad Barre at (Ina Guhaa) in Hargeisa District. The attack was launched on 7 March at 11 p.m. and went on until 1:30 a.m., with 35 enemy soldiers being killed and 26 others injured. The fighters also captured 10 light guns. The Somali national movement fighters lost two martyrs.

DFSS ADOPTS POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL PROGRAM

EA101750 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 8 Mar 83

[Political, economic, and social program adopted on 28 February 1983 by the First Congress of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia (DFSS), read by ('Abd ar-Rahman Aideed Ahmad), DFSS information secretary; place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Allah akhbar! I greet you combatants. Success to the political programme of the DFSS. The DFSS, which leads the Somali people, who are progressive democratic forces, held its inaugural general congress from 28 February to 1 March 1983. The congress' aim was to unite the liberation and opposition forces' fighting capabilities and adopt a progressive political program aimed at toppling the dictatorial regime of Mohamed Siad Barre. [applause]

The other aspect of the congress was to bring together, consoldiate, and unite the peace-loving and democratic forces of the region, which will in turn become a vanguard of the struggling forces of the world in waging a war against internal and external reactionaries, in this region in particular and the world in general.

The stragegy of the war in the region was masterminded by international imperialism and reactionary Arabs. The U.S. military base is an outright provocation, which has violated Somali sovereignty, which was attained through bloodshed. The establishment of the U.S. military base encourages confrontation among the people in the region and is a blot on world stability and peace. It also directly threatens democratic nationalist forces, the Gulf states and, especially, oil-producing Middle East countries that support African and Asian countries in their bid to independently administer their own affairs.

As long as there is an American base in Berbera, there will not be a single night in which those forces will rest in peace. The interests of the Somali people will be in danger. Somalia has become a battlefield for war and is not stable. The economic situation: The mad administration's policies have brought the economic output of the country to a standstill. The reason behind this state of affairs is Siad Barre's personal involvement in the economy. The economy is near collapse. The country's two vital areas of production, farming and livestock breeding, are in a sad state. These two areas of production have not satisfied the needs of the farming and nomadic people and the general public [words indistinct]. Our country's internal and external trade is hampered by constant interference, mismanagement, and unworkable commercial policies.

Tens of factories [words indistinct] built by the Soviet Union and friendly governments were operating when Siad Barre took over power, but are now no longer in operation. Corruption, favoritism, and nepotism are the causes of the economy's destruction.

Another reason for its destruction is the exposure of the economy to interference from the central administration and indifference to different regional situations. Unemployment, disease, hunger, and ignorance have become the order of the day in Somalia.

On the police state: The people have been subjected to living in a police state. When he usurped power the dictator created an organ he called a security organ, which was responsible for jailing, killing, and torturing the people. This brought about [words indistinct]. It has become the order of the day in Somalia for the dictator and his secret police, which has [word indistinct] with unlimited powers.

Imprisonment, killing, mental and physical torture of innocent people, unjustified imprisonment, restriction of movement, and many other crimes have been committed against the Somali people in the name of maintaining security and imposing a curfew. The Somali leaders announced a state of emergency to justify forcible imprisonment in the name of security and against underground movements and in violation of the justified nationhood of Somalia. Somalia has become [words indistinct]. Thousands of Somalis are exposed to killings and inhumane acts unleashed on them by repressive organs.

The people subjected to torture and forcible imprisonment are those that dictator Mohamed Siad Barre's regime suspects of sympathizing with the underground movement. Those few who usurped power in Somalia see the general public of Somalia as only good for mass rallies to endorse their so-called national policies. But the truth is that those policies are solely for their own interests. The dictatorial regime of Mohamed Siad Barre has not carried out and does not hope to carry out any national policy that will benefit the future sons of Somalia.

On international foreign relations: If we look at foreign policy, we see the short-sighted self-interest of Mohamed Siad Barre, which has dragged Somalia into wars and great reverses for the Somali people. This policy created tension, friction, confrontation, and instability in the Horn of Africa. The dictatorial regime surrendered Somali territory and waters to America. The regime has given land and naval bases to America. Somalia has become an ally with [words indistinct], which transgresses the nonaligned policy of Somalia.

This has endangered the national security, independence, and the very existence of Somalia. The foreign policy of Mohamed Siad Barre, which is based on suicide and self-interest, has led to Somalia's isolation from the progressive countries of the world. This has also led Somalia into supporting the Camp David agreement, which aimed at breaking the back of the Arab world and of the Palestinian people and which killed relations between Somalia and some Arab and other progressive countries. Somalia has no name and no respect in the world at large today.

Conclusion: The ailing economy and failure of the country's production has been further aggravated by the relatives of Siad Barre and his henchmen, who have usurped power, amassed wealth, and have become very wealthy people. Somalia's economic outlook is grim and faces further setbacks. The general Somalian public in both urban and rural areas are lacking the basic human rights to food, water, health facilities, and education. The unprovoked wars waged by the dictatorial regime had a disastrous and destructive effect on the people of the region, particularly on the people of Somalia.

The truth is that Somalia has become the center for refugees who live on handouts from international relief agencies. After closely examining the future of Somalia's political stability and its dictatorial regime, it becomes imperative for opposition movements to emerge. These opposition forces joined under the DFSS banner in order to topple the dying regime. The DFSS knows that the armed struggle it is waging against those who rule Somalia will not by itself achieve the desired goal of toppling the regime. For that reason it is not prohibited for the DFSS' armed struggle to adopt other tactics, ranging from the minor [as heard] to armed urban guerrilla warfare.

The DFSS' inaugural congress fully endorsed the following political program which is the target for the front's struggle and its sections' political goals, in order to save the Somali nation from the dictatorial regime of Siad Barre. The program's political basis is as follows:

1. To establish a better political program than the policies of the dictatorial regime of Siad Barre in Somalia;

2. To establish democracy, justice, freedom, and dignity in the country;

3. To introduce urgent economic, political, and social changes in the country;

4. To remove U.S. bases and the U.S. policy of the use of surrogates from the country;

5. To establish genuine peace and cooperation based on brotherhood in the Horn of Africa;

6. To establish tangible nonaligned policies.

The DFSS calls on all the democratic progressive movements and individuals that represent the Somali population to unite their ability, strength, and mental capacity to implement the historic strategy to hasten the end of Siad Barre's dictatorial and reactionary regime and establish a democratic government [word indistinct] that will implement nationalist and progressive plans to accelerate development for the Somali people.

For that reason, the DFSS urges and encourages the democratic and progressive forces to implement the aims and aspirations of Somalia as well as unify their forces and capabilities in order to [word indistinct] the victory of the struggle.

In its inaugural congress held from 28 February to 1 March 1983, the DFSS endorsed a plan spelling out the political, economic, and social policies of the nationalistic and democratic revolution of the DFSS. The congress was based on unity and victory. The political program: the first part, the internal policies of the DFSS, are based on the following:

Internal policies:

1. To remove the dictatorial regime of Siad Barre and to institute a government of the people.

2. To safeguard and promote the Islamic religion, which is the Somali people's basic belief. Islam is the religion of the country.

3. To introduce the society's first law of peace and progress and launch a campaign opposed to the war [with Ethiopia] which was planned by international imperialists.

4. The DFSS calls for cooperation among the countries of the Horn of Africa. [applause]

5. The DFSS has resolved to [word indistinct] the progressive forces of the world at large.

6. To form a democratic and nationalistic government which will ensure the routing out of the instruments, organs, tactics, laws and (?investigative procedures) established by dictator Siad to oppress the Somali people. [applause]

7. To establish a democratic administration based on independent parliamentary election with members constitutionally elected.

8. To reshape the armed forces so that they may effectively participate in the progress of the nation and the defense of the dignity and independence of the SDR. [applause]

To establish the democratic rights of the people and pledge their full participation in the political, social, economic, and trade union activities.

To form a society based on equality, justice, and freedom and implement the rights for work, education, health facilities, and basic human rights of [word indistinct], association, assembly, speech, and publication.

To remove all U.S. bases, land, air, and naval facilities from Somali territory and prohibit other foreign bases. [applause]

To safeguard and strengthen the unity of the country and people of the SDR.

To rout out divisive activities and (?procedures) such as regionalism, tribalism, [word indistinct] and any other issue that could divide the nation.

To exert efforts for the unity of the Somali opposition forces who aim at eradicating the dictatorial regime of Siad Barre, spearheaded by the Somali national movement. [applause]

To abrogate all agreements entered into with any country, organization or group -- whether political, economic, or military -- that might harm the independence, dignity, and honor of the Somali people, for example, the [agreement on the] military base given to imperialist America. [applause]

To strengthen and strive (?to introduce new) [words indistinct] the annals of the two nations who are brothers -- Somalia and Ethiopia. [applause]

To release all the political prisoners and return all refugees to society while restoring and allowing the return of all civilians and military personnel who lost their (?employment) during the liberation war against the dictatorial regime. [applause]

Foreign Policy

The foreign policy of the DFSS is based on:

Following practical neutrality in all international policies.

Reestablishing among the people of east Africa in general, and among those in the Horn of Africa in particular, a lasting peace, stability, [word indistinct] good-neighborliness, cooperation, respect for their national independence, and sovereignty based on peaceful coexistence.

Avoiding the use of force in (?the relations) of Somalia and Ethiopia. [applause]

Strengthening the nationhood, interests, [word indistinct] independence, and promotion of the societies of the people of the Horn of Africa in particular and those of the world in general.

While taking [word indistinct] the internal peace program, friendship, and cooperation, it is imperative to fully reinstate the diplomatic trade and cultural relations between Somalia and other countries which Siad Barre has broken. The countries in question are the democratic republic of Libya, Ethiopia, the Republic of Cuba, and other socialist nations. [applause]

To give strong support for the national rights of the Palestinian people, who are struggling for their independence and return to their motherland under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. [applause]

To give full support to the struggle of the Arab people opposed to the Camp David agreement, a deceitful imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary maneuver opposed to the freedom, progress, [word indistinct], democracy, and unity of the Arab people. [applause]

To strongly condemn Israel's terrorism, its expansionist policies in Palestine, Lebanon, the Golan Heights in Syria; its denial of the rights of Arab people; and its continued support for South Africa and (?call on it to unconditionally) withdraw from the Arab territories it captured in the 1967 war.

To strongly condemn destabilization by international imperialism and its continued provocation of Libya, South Yemen, Syria, and countries struggling for their independence in southern Africa.

To support and recognize the Sahara Democratic Arab Republic.

To support the people of Africa who are opposed to imperialist interference and exploitative economic and social policies in Africa.

Full support of the struggle by the ANC and SWAPO for liberation. [applause]

We fully support the OAU and UN resolutions on the Red Sea and Indian Ocean regions.

We support the struggle by the people of the Gulf region, the Red and the Indian Ocean for the removal of imperialist American and other bases and we support those who are struggling to make the region a non-nuclear zone free of colonialist forces.

To strongly support the people of the world who are struggling for freedom, democracy, [words indistinct] and world peace.

To participate fully in the work of such international and regional organizations as the UN, the OAU and the Arab League in order to strengthen peace, national freedom, and sovereignty and social progress.

To peacefully reconcile all tensions and differences among nations using the good offices of the UN, the OAU, the Arab League and the principles and charters of the nonaligned nations [words indistinct].

To extend an open and brotherly welcome to the socialist revolution in Ethiopia, which is opposed to annexation, capitalism [words indistinct].

To lend a hand to international movements struggling to eradicate the exploitation and oppression inherited from the capitalist system.

We support the outcome of the second COPWE congress. [applause]

To extend a hand to the revolutionary government and people of Iran who toppled the shah's regime and are now waging war against imperialists in the region.

The Economic Program

The aims of the DFSS economic program are:

1. To implement a progressive economic policy which will improve the society's production and is aimed at freeing the national economy from international capitalism.

2. To reorganize and protect national industries. To establish a policy to reshape the agricultural sector.

3. To give priority to the development of livestock and fisheries.

4. The development and encouragement of the state economy is imperative.

5. To encourage private investment which plays an important role in production based on the general national economic plan.

6. (?Regional) centralization, a move that will uniformly enhance development in the regions without harming the unity of the nation.

7. To improve standards of living and work with respect to the needs of nomads and farmers for housing and settlement projects.

8. To increase production -- a food policy based on proper management.

9. To immediately implement the liberalization of farming policy.

The Social Program

The DFSS social policy is as follows:

1. To eradicate social evils such as tribalism, corruption, favoritism, and the theft of public property.

2. To respect, liberalize, and give more power to the administration and the rule of law in Somalia. This should be based on justice.

4. [as heard] To implement a revolutionary educational system and correct policy for national education which responds to national needs and ensures equality in education.

The DFSS again reiterates that it will strengthen the struggle to topple the dictatorial regime, which is an enemy of the Somali people, and calls on the Somali nationalist forces to pool their mental and physical strength with that of the front. The front also calls on the different sections of the Somali people such as workers, farmers, herders, national intellectuals, and those members of the armed forces who support the oppressed people to unite their struggle in opposition to the [word indistinct] regime of Siad Barre. It also calls upon these forces to join hands with the DFSS and work with [word indistinct].

The front calls on other political opposition movements opposed to the reactionary administration to strengthen their struggle and play their part in uniting the Somali opposition. The DFSS calls on all progressive people in Africa and Asia, our Arab brothers and other peoples of the world to extend to a us all possible forms of material, moral, and political assistance. This would hasten the downfall of dictator Siad Barre.

The struggle waged by the Somali people cannot succeed without the necessary assistance from these forces. The front is fighting to establish in Somalia a progressive and democratic policy strengthened by a revolutionary, democratic, and nationalist movement.

Long live the struggle of the Somali people for democracy, peace, and social justice! Long live the solidarity of international progressive forces! Long live the fraternity and solidarity of the people of the Horn of Africa! Long live the struggle of the Arab people against Zionism, imperialism, and reaction!

UGANDA

TROOPS FIGHT 'LAST POCKETS' OF RESISTANCE

AB141759 Paris AFP in English 1732 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Kampala, March 14 (AFP) -- Ugandan Government troops are "dealing with the last pockets of resistance" by anti-government rebels and will soon make a final push, according to Vice-President and Defence Minister Paulo Muwanga.

Uganda radio, quoting a statement by Mr. Muwanga to the Indian high commissioner to Uganda, Nathu Ram Verma, said that the Army had pushed the anti-government rebels "into an enclave where they have no exit".

The report was the first official confirmation of widespread rumours here in the last week that government troops had mounted an intensive operation against the rebels in Luwero District about 80 kms (50 miles) north of the capital. Uganda radio announced last week that night travel in an area bordering on the troubled Luwero District had been banned until further notice. Observers commented that the travel ban was a government attempt to prevent the national resistance army rebels, led by former Defence Minister Yoweri Museveni and believed to be operating in the area, from crossing into another district under cover of darkness.

In another development, a Kampala vernacular daily, TAIFA EMPYA, reported that two parish chiefs were killed by gunmen last week on the outskirts of Kampala, along with one of the wives of the chiefs.

NIGERIA

VICE PRESIDENT EKWUEME-LED DELEGATION VISITS PRC

For Beijing media coverage of the visit to the PRC by Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Dr Alex I. Ekwueme and his party, see the Middle East section of the 14 March China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER PAYS VISIT TO JAPAN

For KYODO coverage of Nigerian External Affairs Minister Ishaya Audu's visit to Japan, beginning 13 March, see the Japan section of the 15 March Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS SAYS HE HAS NOT RESPONDED TO DOE

AB141237 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Freetown, 14 Mar (AFP) -- Sierra Leone President Siaka Stevens said here that he had not responded to "desperate efforts" by Liberian leader Samuel Doe and "other third parties" to resolve their border dispute during the Non-aligned Conference in New Delhi. Speaking to newsmen after his return from the Indian capital, Mr Stevens said that Sierra Leone had "no quarrel" with Mr Doe or the Liberian Government "to warrant mediation."

Liberia closed the border on February 22 in protest at a Freetown newspaper article alleging that Mr Doe had shot his wife dead after she tried to poison him. Attempts by Guinea to solve the dispute failed when President Stevens accused Mr Doe of escalating it to include Liberian claims on Sierra Leone territory.

The Sierra Leone leader has also said that as Liberia had closed the border it was up to Liberia to reopen it.

TOGO

GOVERNMENT REFUSES DIPLOMATS ENTRY VIA AFLAO

AB141848 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] A GHANA NEWS AGENCY report says the Togolese authorities today refused officials of the Canadian and Hungarian diplomatic missions in Ghana to arrive at Aflao entry into Togo. No reasons were given. Ghana reopened her borders with the Ivory Coast, Togo, and Upper Volta last week after they had been closed for 7 months and the secretary for the interior said at the time that the envoys of the three countries had been informed and hoped their home government would cooperate in the exercise.

ANGOLA

AFP: UNITA CAPTURES CZECHS, PORTUGUESE, CUBAN

AB141331 Paris AFP in French 1254 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, 14 Mar (AFP) -- UNITA, (armed opponents of the Luanda government) said on Monday that it captured 64 Czechoslovak and 20 Portuguese technicians on 12 March in the Benguela Province (southwest Angola). In a statement issued in Paris, it added that it took Cuban Lieutenant Adolfo Esteves prisoner during an operation in the Huambo region (in the central part of the country).

In the statement, UNITA proposes to exchange "some of the Czechoslovak prisoners" for the liberation of "the Englishmen" held since 1975 in Angola. They were captured while serving with the FNLA, opposed to the ruling MPLA in Luanda. The UNITA proposal concerns Luanda authorities, the International Committee of the Red Cross and British authorities. Among the Czechoslovak technicians it claims to have captured, UNITA gives the following names: William Paray, Josef Ptz, Jaromic Klak and Victor Lubunek.

UNITA also stated that it destroyed a paper factory as well as a hydroelectric power station which supplies electricity to the cities of Huambo, Cubal, Beneguela and Lobito.

DOS SANTOS REFUTES CROCKER ON CUBAN TROOPS

AB141505 Luanda ANGOP in French 1330 GMT 14 Mar 83

[ANGOP Commentary: "The United States Persists With the Linkage Policy"]

[Text] Luanda, 14 Mar (ANGOP) -- The United States continues to link the presence of the Cuban internationalist troops in Angola with the Namibian problem -- a position commonly known as the policy of linkage.

In fact, Chester Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, recently stated that the solution of the Namibian problem depended on the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola. Should it be repeated that the presence of Cuban troops in Angola and the Namibian problem are two distinct questions?

The question of Namibia is a purely colonial problem whereas the presence of Cuban troops in Angola is a matter which concerns the Angolan and Cuban Governments alone. The solution to the Namibian problem does not depend on the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola as Chester Crocker would like people to believe, but on the application of UN Security Council Resolutions 435 and 478.

As President Jose Eduardo dos Santos affirmed last Wednesday in his address to the Seventh Summit Conference of Nonaligned Countries held from 7 to 11 March in New Delhi, "the question of Cuban troops does not figure in Resolution 435 on Namibia's decolonization and neither the contact group nor the United States has received any mandate to dael with it." However, said the Angolan head of state, the Western countries and particularly the United States prefer to interfere in Angola's internal affairs by linking Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola.

The U.S. assistant secretary of state also affirmed that the presence of Cuban troops in Angola has created what he called an unstable situation in southern Africa.

Chester Crocker must be reminded that the instability in southern Africa was not created by the presence of the Cuban troops in Angola but on the contrary by South Africa's constant armed aggressions against the sovereign frontline states, particularly Angola. It is the South Africans who have created a climate of permanent war in the region by occupying a considerable part of Angolan territory, by systematically destroying economic targets and by sowing terror among the defenseless and peaceful people of the frontline countries.

The danger to peace and security in southern Africa does not come from Angola but from South Africa which persists with its aggressive policy in flagrant violation of the norms of international law. Therefore, it is South Africa, encouraged by the United States, which is the factor of instability in southern Africa and not the Cubans.

SOVIET DELEGATION VISITS HUILA PROVINCE

ABI41659 Luanda ANGOP in French 1630 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Luanda, 14 Mar (ANGOP) -- The provincial commissioner of Huila, Mariano, member of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party, early on Saturday afternoon received a Soviet delegation led by the economic affairs counselor at the Soviet Embassy in Angola, at the headquarters of the party's provincial committee.

In that province, the Soviet delegation inspected the activities of Soviet assistance, especially in the socioeconomic sphere.

MOZAMBIQUE

ROMANIAN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR COOPERATION TALKS

MB141201 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Ion Tesu, Romanian minister of agriculture and food industry, arrived in Maputo aboard the same plane that carried Joaquim Chissano. The Romanian minister is to take part in the fifth session of the Mozambique-Romania joint commission, which will analyze cooperation between the two countries.

Joint Commission Sessions Begin

MB150800 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] The working sessions of the Mozambique-Romania joint commission have started today in Maputo, and they will cover matters related to the fields of agriculture, industry, banking, finance, construction, and foreign trade. During the opening session the Mozambican delegation praised the role played by Romanian experts at the 400,000-hectare agricultural project in Cabo Helgado, while the Romanian delegation pointed out the need to improve the quality of cooperation in the various fields.

SOUTH AFRICA

IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPMENT IN BLACK AREAS STRESSED

MB150816 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] The development of urban black residential areas within the borders of South Africa is assuming even greater dimensions.

This is stated in the annual report of the South African Department of Cooperation and Development. The report also says that the department is striving to raise the standard of living of the residents of those areas to a higher level.

Figures contained in the report indicate that an overseas loan of $160 million is to be used to upgrade existing services such as sewerage and roads in the black city of Soweto. The electrification of Soweto, which is regarded as the biggest project of its kind in the world, is expected to be completed early next year at an estimated cost of $325 million. Similar projects are envisaged in other areas as the money becomes available. The report also states that 228 community councils have been established for urban black residential areas outside the self-governing national states in the last 4 to 5 years. This is a clear indication of the government's desire to grant urban blacks the greatest degree of control in their own local authorities.

ZIMBABWE

CHINAMANO TAKES OVER LEADERSHIP OF ZAPU

AB1111833 Paris AFP in English 1741 GMT 11 Mar 83

[Text] Harare, March 11 (AFP) -- Josiah Chinamano, vice-president of the opposition Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), said today he had taken over as acting president following the flight of party leader Joshua Nkomo to Botswana two days ago. And he added in a statement that the party expected that unity talks with the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe would "continue to their logical conclusion within the shortest possible period."

Mr Chinamano, who unlike most ZAPU supporters comes from Mr Mugabe's majority Shona people, said that Mr Nkomo's decision to leave the country "was a personal one, based on his assessment of the situation relating to his security. It was not a party decision." Mr Chinamano noted that "the constitutional position of ZAPU is that in the absence of the president the vice-president takes over as acting president of the party." He added, "I have assumed effective control of the party as acting president and the functions of the party continue."

Mr Chinamano said that the "patriotic unity remains which was forged between ZAPU and ZANU in 1976 and reinforced at independence in 1980, resulting in the formation of a government of national unity."

"Working together in all departments of government, including Parliament, continues as usual," he added. (Despite the exclusion of Mr Nkomo from the Cabinet in February 1981 after accusations of plotting, the government still has four ZAPU ministers.)

Mr Chinamano said that ZAPU "deplores utterances by some government ministers who continually attribute to ZAPU deviant violent activities by some people. I wish to put it on record that ZAPU has repeatedly and unreservedly condemned these activities and continues to do so." The reference was to the linking of the ZAPU leadership by some ZANU ministers with the wave of dissident violence in Zimbabwe which broke out after Mr Nkomo's dismissal from the Cabinet. Most of the dissidents are former members of Mr Nkomo's pre-independence guerrilla army.

Mr Chinamano, who was also sacked as minister of transport in 1982 at the same time as Mr Nkomo, said he wished to "make a strong appeal to all Zimbabweans for calm and peace in this critical hour in the short history of our independence."

He confirmed that a meeting of the ZAPU Central Committee which was to have been held this weekend had been postponed because of the security situation. However, it would take place soom, and would discuss "usual party business", not including the leadership.

Mr Chinamano's statement, which said that ZAPU was "dedicated to peace and unity", was seen as remarkably moderate here. The government has recently closed several ZAPU offices, arrested local leaders and even, according to ZAPU sources in Bulawayo, killed party officials. The government moves came as the Army undertook a massive drive against dissidents in the southwestern province of Matabeleland, ZAPU's heartland.

Mr Chinamano, 61, is considered part of ZAPU's moderate wing, which would like to see unity with ZANU in line with Mr Mugabe's declared intention to make Zimbabwe eventually a one-party state. Known for his affable and conciliatory nature, he was in hospital several months ago for a relatively serious illness, and observers said he might not remain at the head of the party for long.

NAN INTERVIEWS NKOMO BEFORE FLIGHT FROM COUNTRY

AB1311132 Lagos NAN in English 1120 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Joshua Nkomo interviewed by correspondent Adewale Fatona in Bulawayo; date not given]

[Text] [No dateline as received] In the past one year, Zimbabwe's Matabeleland region has generated intense international interest because of the tense political situation which exists there. Matabeleland is the home of Zimbabwe's Ndebele people and the stronghold of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) led by Mr Joshua Nkomo.

It is about a third of the country's land area, but holds about one fifth of its population. In spite of its size, however, this is where Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's record of political successes have been halted by dissidents loyal to Mr. Nkomo, Mugabe's war-time ally.

The dissidents have staged countless insurgent activities in the region almost to the point of anarchy. In the past five weeks or so, the government has had to deploy a 5,000-man counter-insurgency force, the Fifth Brigade, to contain the dissidents. Since then, there have been accusations of civilians being killed by this force. The accusations have been made by Mr. Nkomo, some members of Parliament and several independent organizations.

Recently, this NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA reporter met Mr. Nkomo at his Bulawayo resident to discuss the situation. The following are excerpts for the interview:

NAN: Last month, you accused government troops of killing civilians while hunting for dissidents. What is the situation now?

Nkomo: It is not fair to say that the recent killings in Matabeleland were committed by members of the security forces. It is better to say members of the Fifth Brigade. The situation has been bad since January 21. The deputy prime minister, Simon Muzenda, saw me on January 26, and I ask him to meet some of the people who had witnessed the atrocities of the Fifth Brigade. he promised to send the minister of home affairs. it was when I waited in vain for two days that I decided to address a news conference to alert the world to what was happening.

After that conference things became worse. The international press has been articulate on the issue in the past few weeks. However, since this week, things seem to have calmed down a bit.

Although it is difficult to monitor the situation closely because of restrictions in the areas affected, the fact that the number of refugees is abating shows that the situation is easing. However, the killings have not stopped completely.

NAN: Several reports have mentioned as many as 500 or over 5,000 civilians killed in the past five weeks. What is your estimate?

Nkomo: At my news conference, I mentioned 37 known deaths and 95 unconfirmed.

But the number has since grown considerably. A lot of people have been killed and left to rot. The fellow who said 500 (referring to NEWSWEEK's Holger Jensen, banned from Zimbabwe for his report on the killings) must definitely have estimated from the reports that come that the number is high.

NAN: How true is the rumour that former members of ZIPRA [Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army] the disbanded military wing of your party, are serving with the Fifth Brigade which you say are responsible for the killings?

Nkomo: Some ZIPRA men were recruited initially into the Fifth Brigade. Whether they are still with that brigade I do not know. I am not saying that the Fifth Brigade is committing atrocities because they are ZANLA [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army] (Mugabe's former army) or because they speak Shona or Sindebele. The point is that whether Shona or Sindebele speaking, members of the Fifth Brigade have been trained to kill and are killing.

NAN: How true are reports that non-Zimbabweans have been seen in the disturbed areas of Tsolotsho, Nkayi and Lupane?

Nkomo: I have heard stories that some of those killing people are not Zimbabweans. I cannot confirm or deny these stories. One woman, who came to my house from one of the remote areas near the Botswanan border, surprised me when she asked: "But why is it that we are being killed by foreigners?" I asked if she could confirm the story and she said "yes". She affirmed that they were people who could speak neither Sindebele nor Shona, but spoke a language that sounded like Swahili.

NAN: What has been the reaction outside Zimbabwe to the alleged killings?

Nkomo: I think the international community has shown enough concern about the situation. When I said that tension is easing and the killings are becoming less, it was because of the role of the international press. They have not stood aside and concluded that Zimbabweans are friends. They have said that Zimbabweans are friends but are harming each other.

NAN: Within and outside Zimbabwe, many observers still believe that Zimbabwe's salvation lies in mending the rift between you and Mugabe. Your comments?

Nkomo: I believe that there is substance in this. If both of us are able to work towards resolving the problems I am sure we can overcome the present situation. But, you know, I am powerless. Constitutionally, I am nothing in the political structure of the country. Mugabe is prime minister and whatever we do I push it to him and he should be the person to react and direct things.

NAN: You and Mugabe have met at least twice since your expulsion from the Cabinet. Why was there a sudden change in the poltical climate?

Nkomo: I don't know. If it is because of dissidents we have not lived with them for a year, and I thought our talking would be the best method of handling the dissidents' issue. Some MP said that if ZAPU owned the dissidents and not disowned them, possibly it would have been useful to talk to ZAPU. I feel the question should not be whether ZAPU owns dissidents or not. The problem is that we have dissidents in our country. The solution therefore lies in ZANU and ZAPU finding out who these people are and what are their grievances. We in ZAPU want to talk not because the dissidents belong to us. The problem has to be resolved irrespective of where the dissidents come from.

NAN: African leaders were instrumental in bringing you and Mugabe together under the patriotic front to fight Ian Smith. What are they doing now that things are falling apart?

Nkomo: I don't believe that African leaders have stayed aside and done nothing. I know some of them have consulted with the prime minister. I know that he could not have gone to Nigeria without President Shagari saying something to help him solve our problem. Samora Machel, Julius Nyerere and Kenneth Kaunda have all been saying something.

But, you know, they are trying to help: They cannot direct Comrade Mugabe. I have observed the African scene for some time and have seen many internal issues resolved through the good offices of African leaders who have not necessarily interfered.

NAN: What is your position now that you have abandoned the option to co-operate with the prime minister?

Nkomo: I have at no time abandoned the option to co-operate with Robert, I am always prepared to talk with him.

NAN: Do you fear being arrested by the government?

Nkomo: One fears arrest if one is guilty of wrongdoing. I have done nothing wrong. If Mugabe arrests me because I have spoken out, not because I am against Mugabe, but because the present situation blemishes our country. [sentence as received] The situation is dangerous, and he should do something about it.

Initially, I appealed to him and brought the people concerned to talk with the government. But I did not get any co-operation.

NAN: What has been happening since you were prevented from making your trip to Czechoslovakia?

Nkomo: The police still hold my passport and ticket. They will not give them to me. Neither will they say why, although they have given some very frivolous reasons. They say I have subversive documents and what they really claim to be subversive was my speech in Parliament and the notes I made on February 16 before Parliament rose. I made those notes with the purpose of interviewing the prime minister about the situation. They were not meant for publication and therefore cannot be subversive.

If I am to be punished for calling the attention of our brothers, who love this country, to the dangers of what the Fifth Brigade is doing, I cannot keep quiet. If this is a crime, I am ready to go to prison for it.